Contents

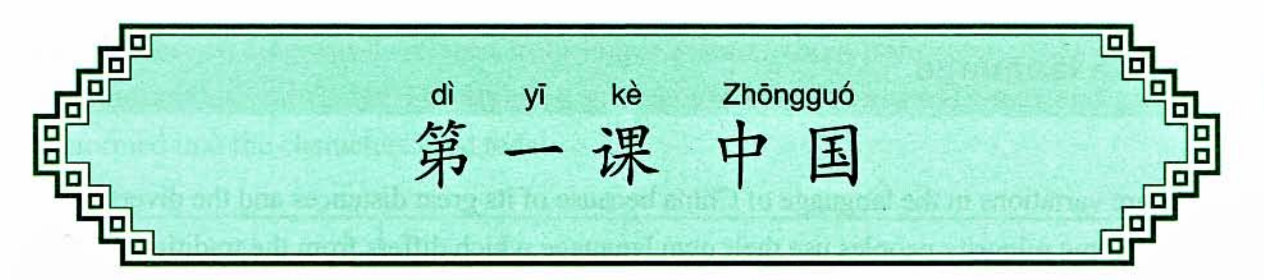
中国地图
Map of China

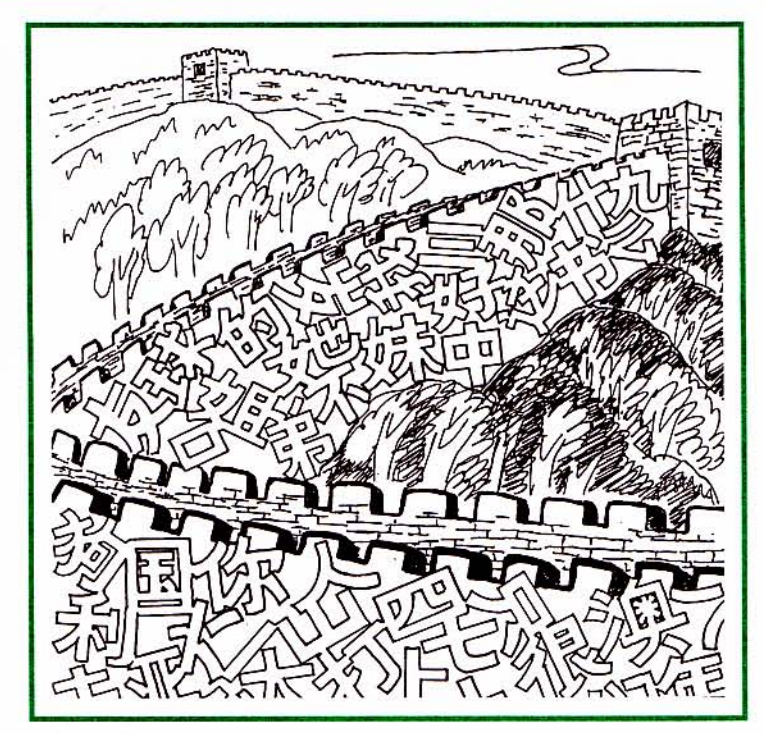
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新疆维吾尔自治区
Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region
乌鲁木齐 Urumqi
西藏自治区
Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region
拉萨 Lhasa
珠穆朗玛峰
Mt Qomolangma (Mt Everest)
青海省
Qinghai Prov.
甘肃省
Gansu Prov.
敦煌 Dunhuang
兰州 Lanzhou
宁夏回族自治区
Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region
内蒙古自治区
Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region
长城 The Great Wall (Chang Cheng)
黑龙江省
Heilongjiang Prov.
哈尔滨 Harbin
吉林省
Jilin Prov.
辽宁省
Liaoning Prov.
沈阳 Shenyang
北京 Beijing
天津 Tianjin
河北省
Hebei Prov.
大同 Datong
山西省
Shanxi Prov.
太原 Taiyuan
山东省
Shandong Prov.
青岛 Qingdao
泰山 Mt Tai
黄河 Huang He
陕西省
Shaanxi Prov.
西安 Xi'an
华山 Mt Hua
河南省
Henan Prov.
开封 Kaifeng
江苏省
Jiangsu Prov.
扬州 Yangzhou
南京 Nanjing
苏州 Suzhou
上海 Shanghai
安徽省
Anhui Prov.
黄山 Mt Huang
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Hunan Prov.
长沙 Changsha
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Jiangxi Prov.
福建省
Fujian Prov.
福州 Fuzhou
台湾
Taiwan
台北 Taibei (Taipei)
厦门 Xiamen
贵州省
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云南省
Yunnan Prov.
昆明 Kunming
广西壮族自治区
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
桂林 Guilin
南宁 Nanning
广东省
Guangdong Prov.
广州 Guangzhou
香港 Hong Kong (Xianggang)
海南省
Hainan Prov.

南海
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Nansha Qundao (Spratly Is.)
曾母暗沙
Zengmu Ansha
南海诸岛
South China Sea Is.
台湾
广东省
海南省
福建省





1 The country

China is situated in the eastern part of the Asian continent and is the third largest country in the world. It covers a total area of approximately 9.6 million square kilometres and is a land of contrasts with deserts in the north, mountains in the south and cultivated areas in the east.

This vast land supports almost a quarter of the world's population: over one billion people of different races, traditions and cultures. Although the majority (about 94% of the population) are the Han people, there are fifty-five minority peoples, the largest among them being the Mongolians [Ménggǔzú 蒙古族], the Tibetans [Zàngzú 藏族] and the Zhuang [Zhuàngzú 壮族].

Chinese culture was the cradle of Japanese, Korean and some South East Asian cultures. The ancient Chinese considered their country to be the centre of the world and called it Zhōngguó [中国], literally meaning 'the Central Kingdom'.

2 The language

There are variations in the language of China because of its great distances and the diversity of its people. Some minority peoples use their own language which differs from the traditional Chinese language. Those who use the traditional language (around 80% of the Chinese population) have developed regional differences in pronunciation, words and grammar. These variations are called *dialects*. People who speak one dialect sometimes find it difficult to understand the speech of someone who speaks another. Just as an Australian might have difficulty understanding a strong Scottish accent, so too people who only speak Cantonese [Guǎngdōnghuà 广东话] may have trouble talking with people who only speak the Min dialect [Fújiànhuà 福建话]. However, people who speak different dialects can always communicate with each other in the written language, which was unified by the First Emperor [Qín Shǐhuáng 秦始皇] (221–210 BC).

Although the written Chinese language was the same, there were still problems in communication caused by the many dialects. To solve these problems, in 1958, the Chinese Government proclaimed that a combination of the pronunciation used by the people of Beijing and other northern cities become the standard speech of China. This is called Pǔtōnghuà [普通话]—literally *common speech*—and is referred to as 'Mandarin' by Westerners. Pǔtōnghuà (also called Hànyǔ [汉语]—*the language of the Han people*) is now the language taught at school, used on TV and radio, and in all official documents.

3 The writing

Chinese is the oldest living language. It is believed that the history of Chinese writing spans over 5,000 or 6,000 years. The earliest writings discovered, dated between 1480 BC and 1122 BC, are inscribed on oracle bones and turtle shells, and are called jiǎgǔwén [甲骨文]. These writings are the records of kings in the Shang dynasty who asked the gods about their fortune for hunting, going to war or any important event.



Some Chinese writing was developed from simple pictures taken from nature, such as animals, birds, mountains and rivers. The style of writing was changed several times and gradually transformed into the characters used today.

	sun	moon	mountain	tree	water	fire	person	mouth
picture								
early writing								
seal form								
modern form	日	月	山	木	水	火	人	口
Pinyin	rì	yuè	shān	mù	shuǐ	huǒ	rén	kǒu

Each Chinese character is pronounced as a single syllable and has its own meanings. Many ideas, thoughts and feelings are expressed by combining two or more simple characters to form a new character with a new meaning.

日 sun + 月 moon = 明 bright (míng)
木 tree + 木 tree = 林 forest (lín)
火 fire + 火 fire = 炎 hot (yán)

Two or more characters can also be used together to form a further meaning, but they remain separate characters.

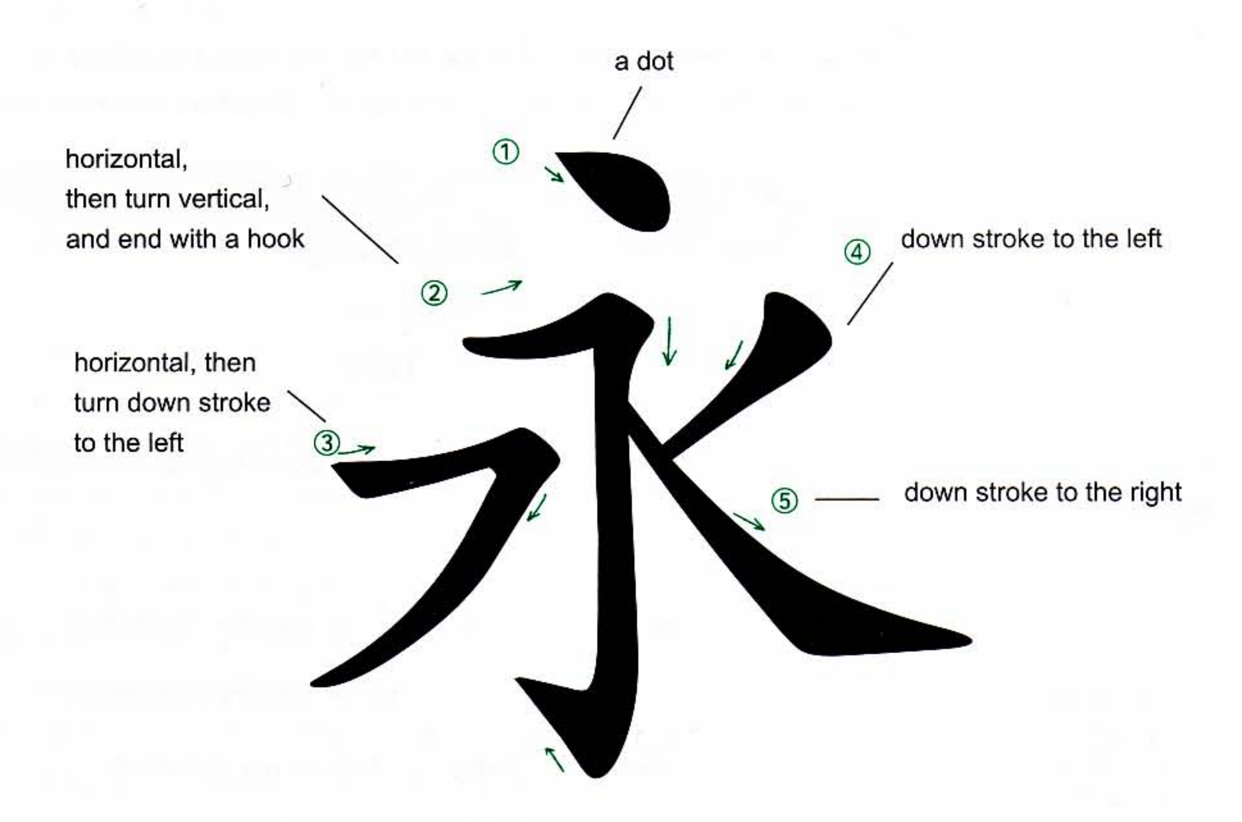
火 fire followed by 山 mountain forms 火山 volcano (huǒshān)
山 mountain followed by 水 water forms 山水 scenery (shānshuǐ)
口 mouth followed by 水 water forms 口水 saliva (kǒushuǐ)
人 people followed by 口 mouth forms 人口 population (rénkǒu)

As Chinese writing is pictographic, some characters are complicated. In 1956, the Chinese Government began simplifying the structure of some characters to make them easier to write.

dragon	traditional	龍	>	simplified	龙	(lóng)
to study	traditional	學	>	simplified	学	(xué)
country	traditional	國	>	simplified	国	(guó)
happy	traditional	歡	>	simplified	欢	(huān)

These simplified characters have been widely and officially used in China ever since. Students learn the simplified form at school and all publications in China use the simplified form; it is also the style used in this book. However, most people in overseas Chinese communities and the people of Taiwan still use the traditional style.

The principles of writing a Chinese character are basically from left to right, top to bottom, a tick and a hook. The character yǒng [永] (forever) is a good example to show the writing structure as it has many of the typical strokes used in most Chinese characters. Writing the strokes in the correct way, and in the correct order, is the first step to writing Chinese successfully.



Chinese books are traditionally written from top to bottom, right to left, and bound with the spine on the right-hand side. In China today, publications, except calligraphy which still follows this tradition, are usually printed in the style used in the West. However, in Taiwan most newspapers, literary works and many other publications are still presented in the traditional style.

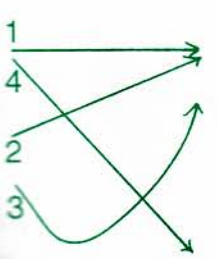
4 Pronunciation

As Chinese had no symbols to represent the sound of the words, in 1918 the Government of the Republic of China proclaimed thirty-nine symbols to represent the sounds. These phonetic symbols, i.e. ㄅㄆㄇㄈ... were named zhùyīn fúhào [注音符号] in 1930 and thirty-seven of them are still in use in Taiwan and many Chinese communities overseas. As these symbols are not easy to learn, Westerners have adopted various ways of using Roman letters, such as the Wade-Giles system and the Yale system, to represent each Chinese sound. In 1958, the Government of the People's Republic of China introduced another Romanisation system, called *Pinyin* [pīnyīn 拼音]. Pinyin is now used in China and is an international system to express the sounds of the Chinese language as well as to spell Chinese names and places. The Pinyin system contains:

Initials		b	p	m	f		d	t	n	l
		g	k	h			j	q	x	
		zh	ch	sh	r		z	c	s	
		(y)	(w)							
Vowels	single	a	o	e	i	u	ü			
	double	ai	ei	ui	ao	ou	iu	ie	üe	er
	nasal	an	en	in	un	ün				
		ang	eng	ing	ong					
Special sounds		zhi	chi	shi	ri	zi	ci	si		
		yi	wu	yu						
		ye	yue	yin						
		yun	yuan	ying						

The pronunciation of the letters in the Pinyin system is somewhat different from that of English. Modern Chinese has 430 sounds, far less than the number of characters, therefore many characters share the same sound. The use of tone (pitch) is an important way to tell the differences in meaning of the same sound. There are four tones in the Chinese language.

ˉ	1st tone:	high level pitch
ˊ	2nd tone:	rising in pitch
ˇ	3rd tone:	low dipping pitch
ˋ	4th tone:	abrupt falling in pitch



A change of tone will change the meaning of a sound. For example:

妈 mā	means	mother	八 bā	means	eight
麻 má	means	flax	拔 bá	means	to pull
马 mǎ	means	horse	靶 bǎ	means	target
骂 mà	means	to scold	爸 bà	means	father

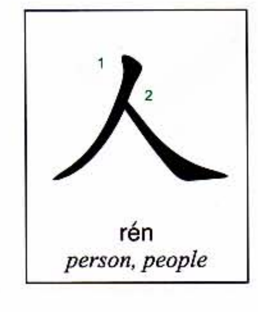
Many characters with different meanings also share the same sound and the same tone. For example:

梅 méi—plum 眉 méi—eyebrow 煤 méi—coal

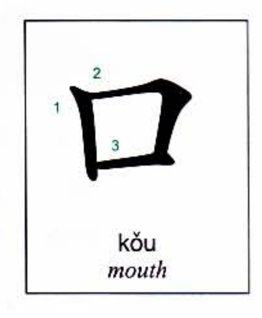
In addition to the four tones there is a neutral tone that does not carry any tone mark. Sometimes the second character of a two-character word uses a neutral tone. Some words that have only grammatical function also use a neutral tone. For example:

爸爸 bàba—father	妈妈 māma—mother	朋友 péngyou—friend
好吗？ Hǎo ma?—OK?	好啊。Hǎo a.—OK.	太好了！ Tài hǎo le!—Great!










dì èr kè nǐ hǎo
第二课 你好

1 Hello!


nǐ hǎo
你好。
nǐ hǎo
你好。
中国


wǒ shì Bái Dàwěi
我是白大伟。
wǒ shì Lǐ Lánlan
我是李兰兰。
中国


zàijiàn
再见。
zàijiàn
再见。
BUS STOP

2 I am Lanlan


tóngxuémen
同学们好。
Lín lǎoshī
林老师好。


nǐ shì
你是……？
Lǐ Lánlan
我是李兰兰。
Bái Dàwěi
他是白大伟。


tóngxuémen zàijiàn
同学们再见。
lǎoshī zàijiàn
老师再见。

3 Good morning











In this section you will learn to use sentences. Have a conversation with your partner to practise the sentence patterns.

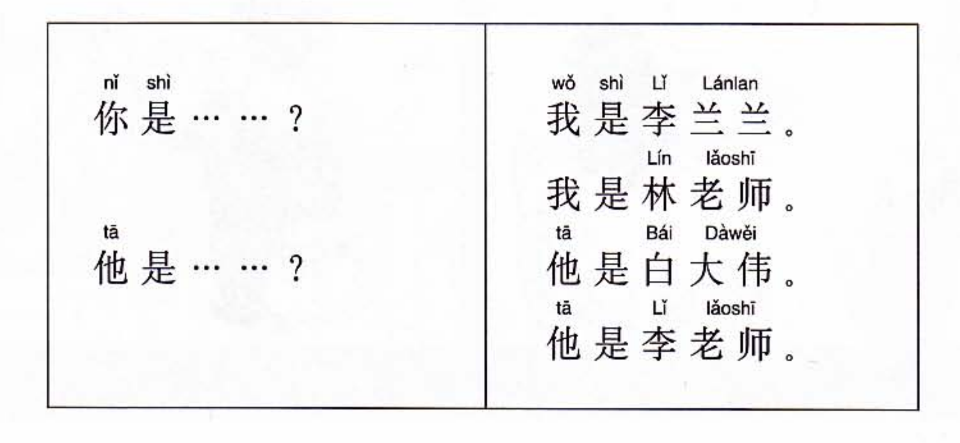
Greeting people

The most common way to greet people is to say nǐ hǎo 你好, or if it is early in the morning, zǎo 早. Chinese people often say nǐ hǎo 你好 to each other at any time of the day or when they are introduced to each other.

nǐ hǎo 你好。	nǐ hǎo 你好。
Lánlan 兰兰，你好。	Dàwěi 大伟，你好。
lǎoshī 老师好。	nǐmen 你们好。
zǎo 早。	zǎo 早。
Lánlan zǎo 兰兰早。	Dàwěi zǎo 大伟早。

Introducing

To introduce yourself, or to state someone's name, the verb shì 是 is used whether the subject is wǒ 我, nǐ 你 or tā 他.

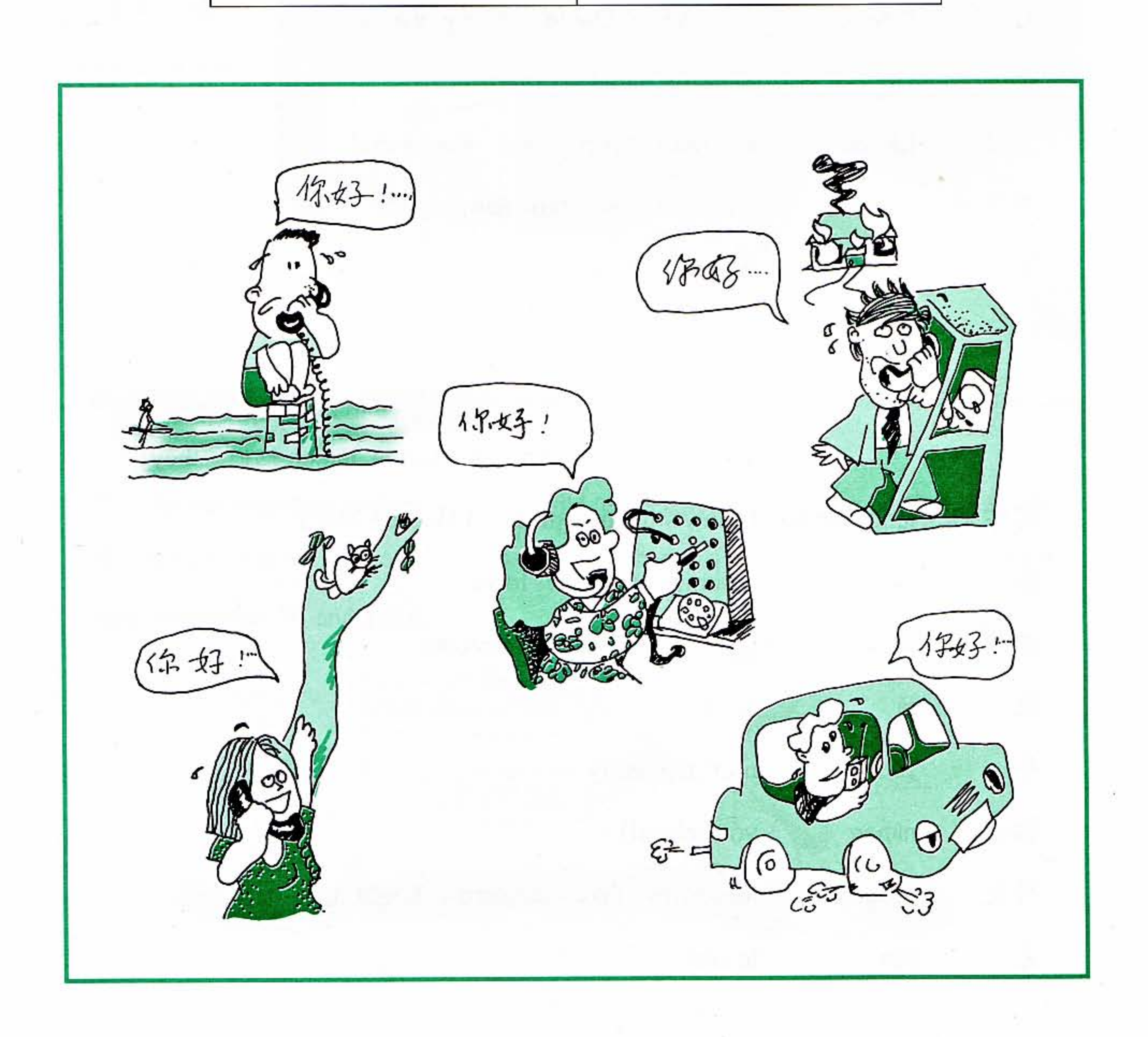


nǐ shì 你是……？	wǒ shì Lǐ Lánlan 我是李兰兰。
	Lín lǎoshī 我是林老师。
tā 他是……？	tā Bái Dàwěi 他是白大伟。
	tā Lǐ lǎoshī 他是李老师。

Saying goodbye

To say goodbye, say zàijiàn 再见. To say see you tomorrow, say míngtiān jiàn 明天见. The person's name or title can also be said before or after zàijiàn 再见 or míngtiān jiàn 明天见.

zàijiàn 再见。	zàijiàn 再见。
míngtiān jiàn 明天见。	míngtiān jiàn 明天见。
tóngxuémen zàijiàn 同学们再见。	lǎoshī zàijiàn 老师再见。
míngtiān jiàn Lánlan 明天见，兰兰。	míngtiān jiàn Dàwěi 明天见，大伟。





New words and expressions

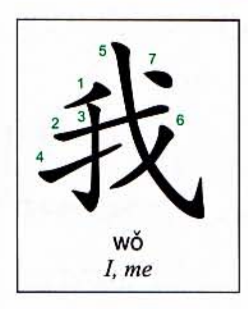
你好	nǐ hǎo	hello, how do you do
你	nǐ	you (singular)
好	hǎo	good, well
我	wǒ	I, me
是	shì	am, is, are
白	Bái	a family name bái- white
大伟	Dàwěi	Chinese for David dà- big; wěi- great
李	Lǐ	a family name lǐ- plum
兰兰	Lánlan	a Chinese given name lán- orchid
再见	zàijiàn	goodbye zài- again; jiàn- to see
同学	tóngxué	fellow student, schoolmate tóng- same, together; xué- to learn
们	men	[used after a pronoun or a noun associated with people to show plural i.e. wǒmen 我们 – we; tāmen 他们 – they]
同学们	tóngxuémen	fellow students (plural of tóngxué 同学)
林	Lín	a family name lín- forest
老师	lǎoshī	teacher lǎo- old; shī- teacher
他	tā	he, him
早	zǎo	morning, early
你们	nǐmen	you (plural)
明天	míngtiān	tomorrow míng- tomorrow, bright; tiān- day
见	jiàn	to see



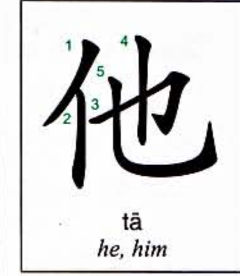
Write the characters

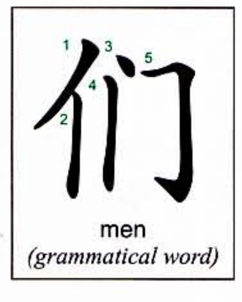




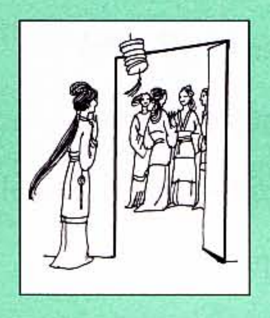








The character 们 contains elements of a standing person 亻 and a door 门. The standing person represents its meaning and the door (mén) represents its sound. 们 is used after a pronoun or a noun associated with people to indicate plural:



Singular		Plural
我	→	我们
你	→	你们
他	→	他们
同学	→	同学们

Something about characters

The Chinese consider a woman bearing a child (especially a son) to be good. The character 好 hǎo (good) in one of the early forms was written as 㚥, which is a combination of a kneeling woman 女 and a child 子.





Supplementary words and expressions

Classroom phrases

请进	qǐng jìn	come in please
请坐	qǐng zuò	sit down please
站起来	zhàn qǐlai	stand up
不要说话	bú yào shuōhuà	do not talk
注意听	zhùyì tīng	listen carefully
请安静	qǐng ānjìng	quiet please
看黑板	kàn hēibǎn	look at the blackboard
把书打开	bǎ shū dǎkāi	open (your) book
到前面来	dào qiánmian lái	come to the front
请回座位	qǐng huí zuòwèi	return to (your) seat please
请坐好	qǐng zuò hǎo	sit properly please
请举手	qǐng jǔshǒu	please raise (your) hand
把手放下	bǎ shǒu fàng xià	put down (your) hand
大声点儿	dà shēng diǎnr	a little louder
再说一次	zài shuō yí cì	say (it) again
很好	hěn hǎo	very good
非常好	fēicháng hǎo	extremely good



Something to know

Greetings

Nǐ hǎo 你好 is the most common greeting used by the Chinese. It is used at any time of the day or when people are introduced to each other. Other expressions used are:

Nǐ máng ma? [你忙吗？]	Are you busy?
Zěnmeyàng? [怎么样？]	How is everything?
Shàng nǎr qù? [上哪儿去？]	Where are you going?
Chī fàn le ma? [吃饭了吗？]	Have you eaten?

These greetings show concern for each other. When asked where they are going, people do not feel that their private lives have been intruded upon and would happily answer 'going shopping', 'going to work', or other similar expressions.

Chinese names

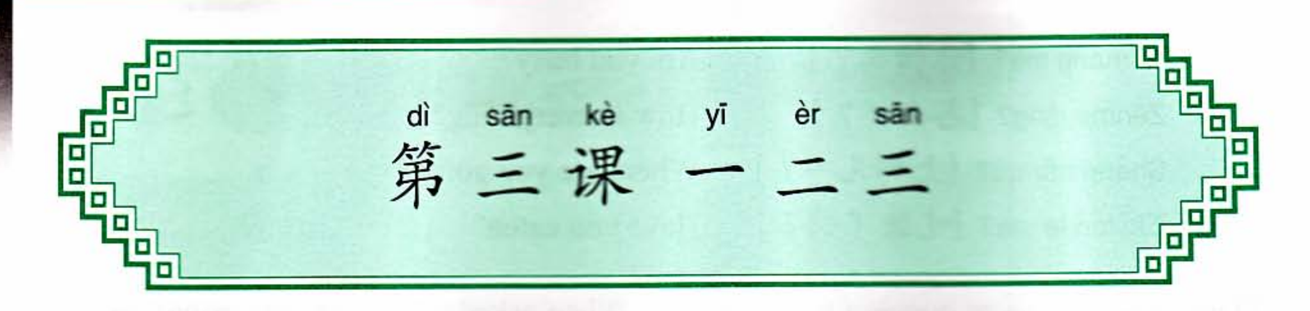
In Chinese, the family name is placed first followed by the given name. Most names contain three characters: the first character is the family name and the following two are the given name. However, some people may have two characters for their family name or just one character for their given name.

When naming a newborn, most parents would choose Chinese characters that best express their expectations for that child, for example, Jiànxióng [健雄] (strong and brave), and Fāngfang [芳芳] (fragrant).



Addressing teachers

Chinese students do not address their teachers as Mr, Mrs, Ms or Miss, instead they use their professional title, lǎoshī [老师] (teacher). They either address their teachers as lǎoshī, or say the family name followed by lǎoshī. For example, if the teacher's family name is Lín [林], they address him/her as Lín lǎoshī [林老师]; if the teacher's family name is Bái [白], they address him/her as Bái lǎoshī [白老师].



1 Numbers up to 10

yī
一

èr
二

sān
三

sì
四

wǔ
五

liù
六

qī
七

bā
八

jiǔ
九

shí
十

一 二 三



líng
○ = zero

一九○五 = 1905

二○○一 = 2001

A tongue twister

三是三，山是山；

四是四，十是十。

2 Important numbers

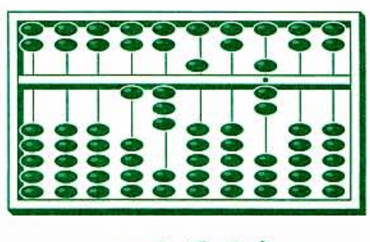






3 Numbers 0 to 100

líng	shí	èrshí	sānshí	sìshí
○	十	二十	三十	四十
一	十一	二十一	三十一	四十一
二	十二	二十二	三十二	四十二
三	十三	二十三	三十三	四十三
四	十四	二十四	三十四	四十四
五	十五	二十五	三十五	四十五
六	十六	二十六	三十六	四十六
七	十七	二十七	三十七	四十七
八	十八	二十八	三十八	四十八
九	十九	二十九	三十九	四十九



一三五○七

wǔshí	liùshí	qīshí	bāshí	jiǔshí	yìbǎi
五十	六十	七十	八十	九十	一百
五十一	六十一	七十一	八十一	九十一	
五十二	六十二	七十二	八十二	九十二	
五十三	六十三	七十三	八十三	九十三	
五十四	六十四	七十四	八十四	九十四	
五十五	六十五	七十五	八十五	九十五	
五十六	六十六	七十六	八十六	九十六	
五十七	六十七	七十七	八十七	九十七	
五十八	六十八	七十八	八十八	九十八	
五十九	六十九	七十九	八十九	九十九	

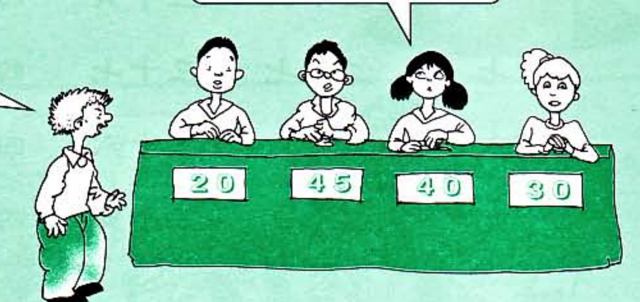


4 Maths quiz

5 + 8 = 13	jiā děngyú 五加八等于十三
69 − 5 = 64	jiǎn děngyú 六十九减五等于六十四
8 × 7 = 56	chéng yǐ děngyú 八乘以七等于五十六
27 ÷ 9 = 3	chú yǐ děngyú 二十七除以九等于三

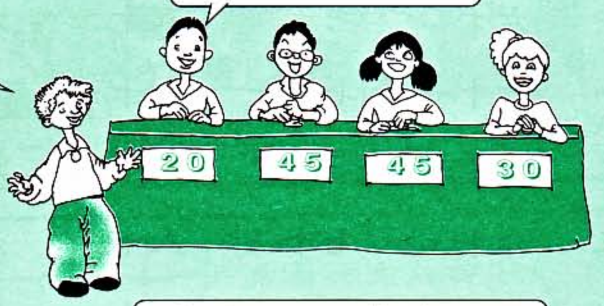
jiā chú yǐ jiā
88加8，除以8，加88

děngyú
等于100



jiā jiā chú yǐ jiā
77加77，加7，除以7，加77

děngyú
等于100



chéng yǐ jiǎn jiā chú yǐ jiā
55乘以5，减55，加5，除以5，加55

děngyú děngyú
等于……等于……





New words and expressions

一	yī	one	十	shí	ten
二	èr	two	〇	líng	zero
三	sān	three	百	bǎi	hundred
四	sì	four	加	jiā	plus, to add
五	wǔ	five	等于	děngyú	to be equal to
六	liù	six	减	jiǎn	minus, to subtract
七	qī	seven	乘以	chéng yǐ	multiplied by chéng- to multiply
八	bā	eight			
九	jiǔ	nine	除以	chú yǐ	divided by chú- to divide



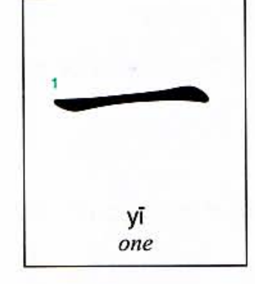
Supplementary words

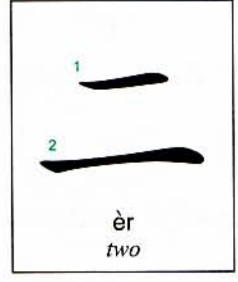
Number Sequence

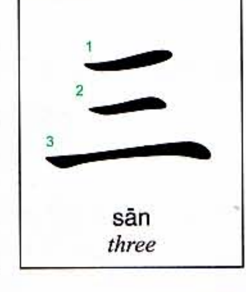
第一	dì yī	the first	第一课	dì yī kè	lesson one
第二	dì èr	the second	第二课	dì èr kè	lesson two
第三	dì sān	the third	第三课	dì sān kè	lesson three
……			……		

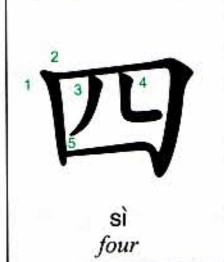


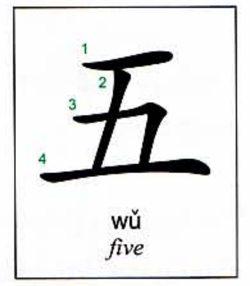
Write the characters


yī
one

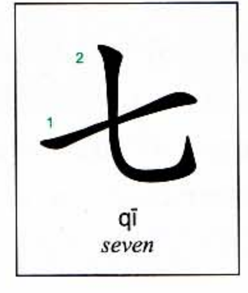

èr
two


sān
three

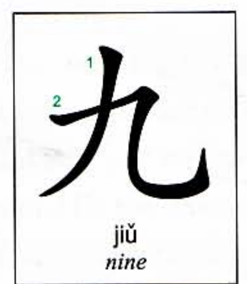

sì
four

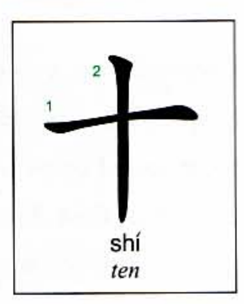

wǔ
five


liù
six


qī
seven


bā
eight


jiǔ
nine

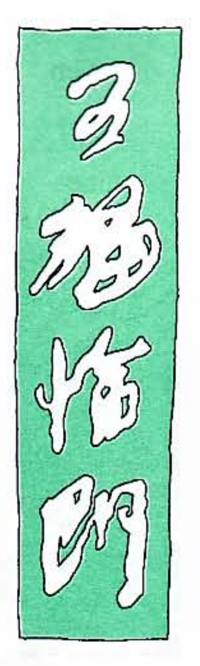

shí
ten

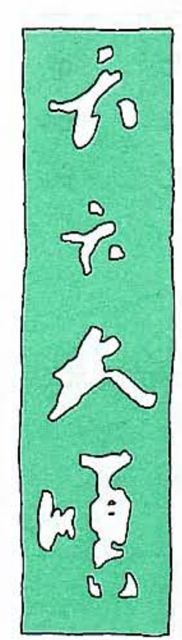


Lucky and unlucky numbers

The Chinese like the concept of pairs, believing them auspicious for happy events. The symbol [囍] (shuāng xǐ, double happiness), is formed by joining two [喜] (xǐ, happiness), and is used during wedding ceremonies to wish couples happiness for the future.







Five and six are also regarded as lucky numbers by Chinese, and are often used in phrases meaning lucky.

wǔ fú lín mén [五福临门]　(the arrival of five happinesses)
liù liù dà shùn [六六大顺]　(double lucky six)

Some people like to choose telephone numbers ending with double six hoping that it will bring them luck.

The number four—sì [四]—is generally regarded to be unlucky as it has the same pronunciation, although a different tone, as the word for death—sǐ [死].

People try to avoid using the number four for things associated with illness or danger. Some hospitals in Taiwan do not have a fourth floor as it would shock the patients' families to hear that their loved ones were on the 'death floor'. Some people also avoid car registration numbers ending in four. However, not all Chinese believe in this superstition, just as not all Westerners believe that the number thirteen is unlucky.



dì sì kè tā shì shéi
第四课 他是谁

1 Who is he?

Dàwěi
你好，大伟！

你好。

shéi
他是谁？

Mǎkè
他是马克。

tā shéi
她是谁？

tā Bái lǎoshī
她是白老师。

2 Who is it?


a
谁 啊？
是 我。


你 是 谁？
Lánlan
我 是 兰 兰。


huānyíng huānyíng qǐng jìn
欢 迎，欢 迎。请 进。
xièxie
谢 谢。

3 How old are you?









Learn the sentences

Identifying people

To ask Who is he/she? say Tā shì shéi? 他/她是谁？ To answer the question, replace the question word shéi 谁 with the person's name. Note that the word order remains the same in both the question and the answer.

shéi 他是谁？	Dàwěi 他是大伟。 Mǎkè 他是马克。
她是谁？	Lín lǎoshī 她是林老师。
你是谁？	Lánlan 我是兰兰。

To find out who is at the door, Chinese often say Shéi a? 谁啊？ To answer this question, say Shì wǒ. 是我。 or to be more polite, say your name.

a 谁啊？	是我。 Lánlan 是我，兰兰。 Bái Dàwěi 是我，白大伟。

Asking about age

To ask a child How old are you? Chinese often say Nǐ jǐ suì? 你几岁？ To answer this question, replace jǐ 几 with the age. The word order remains the same whether it is a question or an answer.

It is common in Chinese to add the word jīnnián 今年 to ask how old a person is this year, so people generally ask Nǐ jīnnián jǐ suì? 你今年几岁？ Note that jīnnián 今年 is not placed at the

end of the sentence as this year is in English.

你几岁(suì)？	我八岁(suì)。
他几岁？	他三岁。
她几岁？	她七岁。
你今年(jīnnián)几岁？	我今年(jīnnián)十一岁。
他今年几岁？	他今年两(liǎng)岁。



New words and expressions

谁	shéi	who, whom (a question word)
马克	Mǎkè	Chinese for Mark mǎ- horse; kè- to overcome
她	tā	she, her
啊	a	(an exclamation)
欢迎	huānyíng	welcome
请进	qǐng jìn	come in please qǐng- please; jìn- to come in
谢谢	xièxie	thanks
祝	zhù	to wish (offer good wishes)
生日	shēngrì	birthday shēng- to give birth to; rì- day, sun
快乐	kuàilè	happy kuài- happy, fast; lè- happy
今年	jīnnián	this year jīn- this, today; nián- year
几	jǐ	how many
岁	suì	year of age
两	liǎng	two (before measure words, age and some numerals)



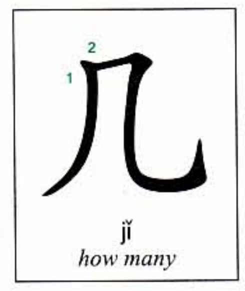
Write the characters



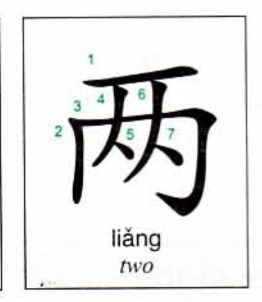






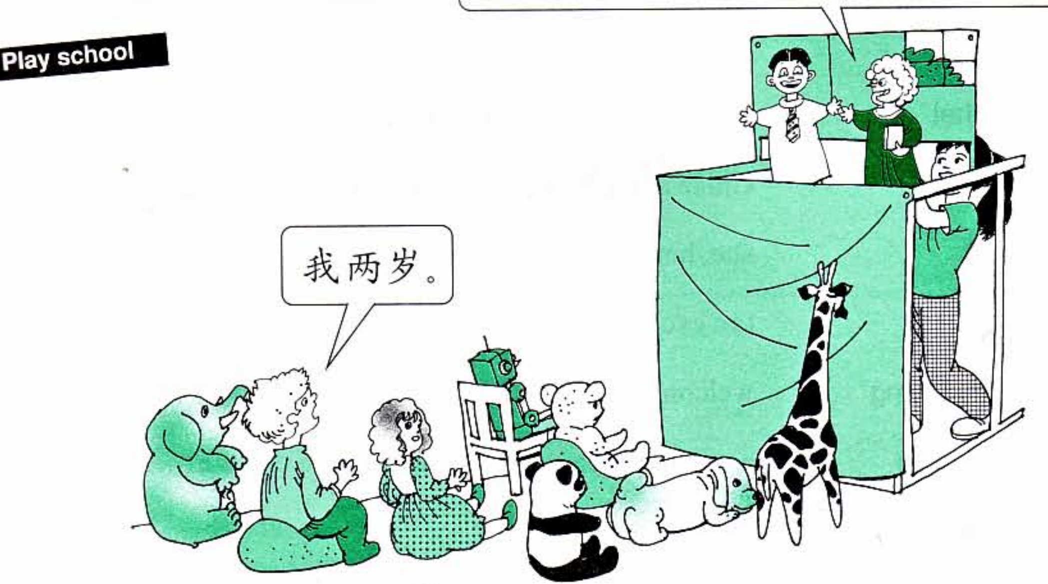






tóngxué men　Bái　jīnnián
同学们好！我是白老师，今年四岁。
Lín
他是林老师，今年五岁。
Lǐ
李三山，你几岁？

Play school



Something about characters

Each Chinese character contains a basic element relating to the meaning of the character. This element is called the *'radical'*. Some characters only contain one element, that is, they are themselves radicals, such as 人 rén (people) and 山 shān (mountain). A great proportion of characters contain two elements with the radical indicating the meaning and the other element indicating the sound. For example, the character 他 tā (he), contains the radical for person 亻 and the character 她 tā (she), has the radical for woman 女. An old pronunciation of 也 in each character indicates the sound.



Chinese age

The Chinese use two methods of counting age: one is called shísuì [实岁]—full age; and the other is called xūsuì [虚岁]—function age. Generally, people use the xūsuì method. With this method children are considered to be one year old as soon as they are born, and two years old after New Year's Eve (Chinese lunar calendar). For example, a child born on New Year's Eve would be two years old on New Year's Day.



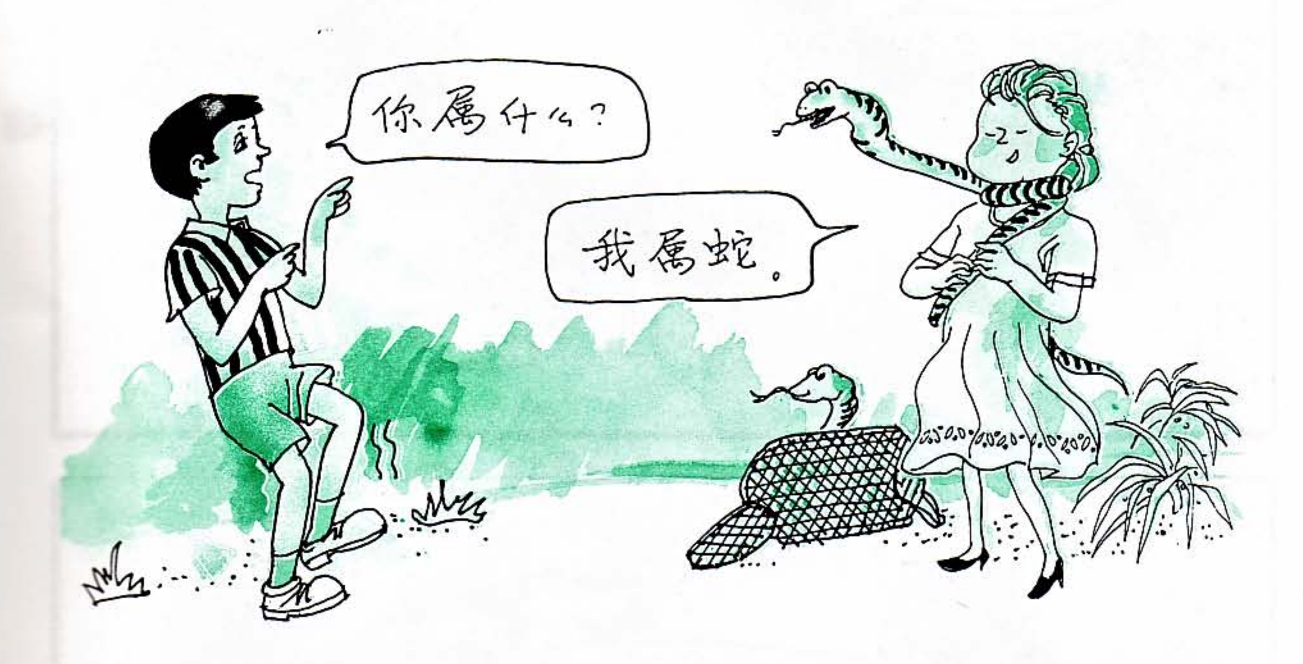


How old are you?

Nǐ jǐ suì? [你几岁？] is the most common way to ask a child his/her age. Sometimes the Chinese also use Nǐ duō dà? [你多大？].

In Western society, adults—especially women—do not like being asked about their age, and it is considered impolite to ask an adult's age. In Chinese society, it is common for adults to ask each other's age and this is not regarded as improper. However, they do not normally ask the other's age directly, but ask the year in which he/she was born and then work out the age for themselves. The questions asked are:

> Nǐ shì nǎ nián shēng de? [你是哪年生的？] In which year were you born?
> Nǐ shǔ shénme? [你属什么？] In what animal year were you born?



Many elderly Chinese enjoy being asked their age as they believe it shows the questioner's respect for their experience, knowledge and health. People normally use questions such as:

> Nín duō dà niánjì? [您多大年纪？] (literally—*How big is your age?*)
> Nín gāo shòu? [您高寿？] (literally—*Your high age?*)

Nín [您] is the polite form of nǐ [你]. Older people, who are usually very proud of their age, would be happy to tell the questioner how old they are.

Birthdays

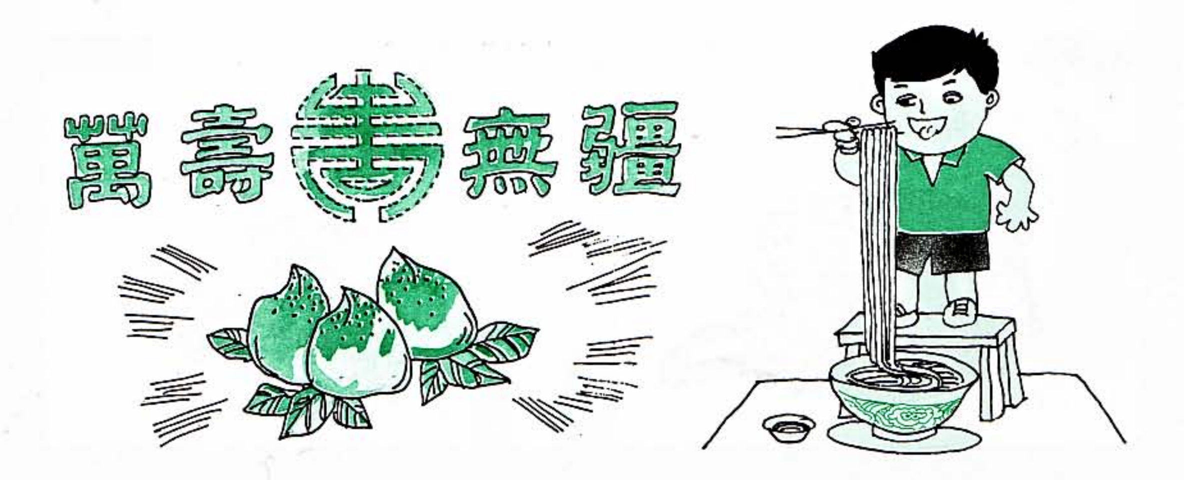
In the past, it was uncommon for the Chinese to celebrate their children's birthdays every year. However, due to the influence of Western ideas, some parents have begun to celebrate their children's birthdays with a birthday cake.

Traditionally, the Chinese celebrate the birth of their children—especially their sons—after the first month, and after the first year. Boiled eggs coloured red are given to friends and relatives when the baby is one month old, and a party is held when the baby is one year old. Children's birthdays are then normally ignored.

After the first birthday, the next important birthday celebration is at thirty years old and then at forty, fifty, sixty and so on. The older the person becomes, the bigger the celebration. The word shòu [寿] (longevity) is used in a variety of styles at such celebrations to wish the person a long life.



During the birthday party, steamed buns in the shape of a peach, which symbolise long life, called shòutáo [寿桃], are distributed. Noodles that also symbolise long life, called shòumiàn [寿面], are eaten. In Taiwan, guests are offered boiled pig's leg with noodles, called zhūjiǎo miànxiàn [猪脚面线]. When eating the noodles, which are usually long, the guests should be careful not to break the noodles as they represent the long life of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

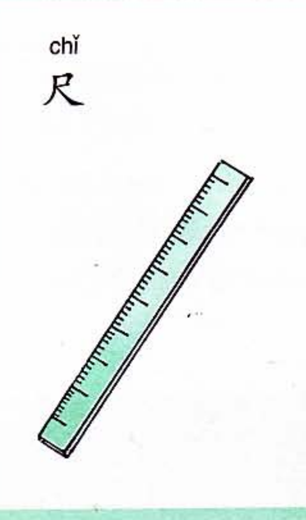




dì wǔ kè zhè shì shéi de
第五课这是谁的

1 Things I use

chǐ
尺



jiǎndāo
剪刀



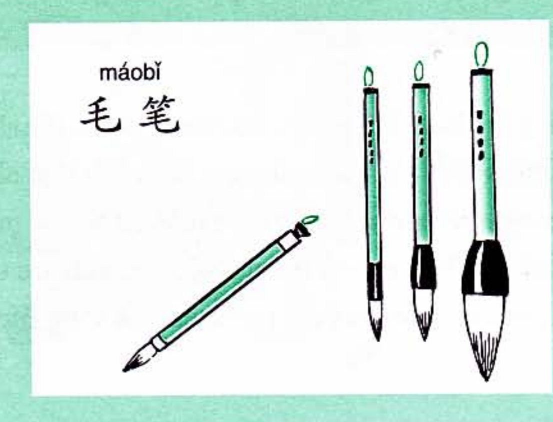
bǐ
笔



shū
书



máobǐ
毛笔



shūbāo
书包



xiàngpí
橡皮



2 What is this?













3 Whose is this?









4 Is this yours?

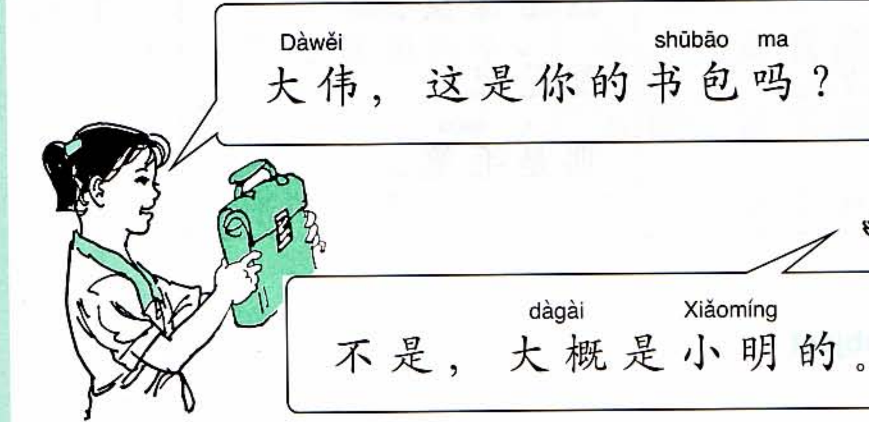
Mǎkè shūbāo ma
马克，这是你的书包吗？





bú nà bú
不是，那不是我的。

Dàwěi shūbāo ma
大伟，这是你的书包吗？



dàgài Xiǎomíng
不是，大概是小明的。

Xiǎomíng ma
小明，这是你的吗？

xièxie
是的，那是我的。谢谢。



bú kèqi
不客气。





Learn the sentences

Identifying objects

To ask What is this? say Zhè shì shénme? 这是什么？ To answer the question, replace the question word shénme 什么 with the object.

zhè shénme 这是什么？	jiǎndāo 这是剪刀。
	xiàngpí 这是橡皮。
nà shénme 那是什么？	chǐ 那是尺。
	máobǐ 那是毛笔。

Asking who owns an object

To ask Whose is this? say Zhè shì shéi de? 这是谁的？ To answer the question, replace the question word shéi 谁 with the owner.

de 这是谁的？	de 这是我的。
那是谁的？	Lánlan 那是兰兰的。
shū 这是谁的书？	shū 这是老师的书。
	Dàwěi 这是大伟的。
bǐ 那是谁的笔？	Xiǎomíng bǐ 那是小明的笔。
	那是我的。

Asking if things belong to someone

To say This is your book. say Zhè shì nǐ de shū. 这是你的书。To ask Is this your book? say Zhè shì nǐ de shū ma? 这是你的书吗？

The first statement was changed into a question by adding the question word ma 吗 at the end. This is one way to turn a statement into a question where the answer can be yes or no.

Chinese answer yes to a question by repeating the verb and answer no by saying the negative form of the verb used in the question. The negative form of shì 是 is búshì 不是. For yes, shìde 是的 is sometimes used instead of shì 是, as it sounds better.

(shūbāo ma) 这是你的书包吗？	是，这是我的。 (bú　bú) 不是，这不是我的。
(máobǐ) 那是你的毛笔吗？	是的，那是我的。 (bú) 不是，那不是我的。

Asking if someone knows something

To ask Do you know? say Nǐ zhīdao ma? 你知道吗？ To answer yes, repeat the verb in the question, i.e. zhīdao 知道. To answer no, add the negative word bù 不 in front of the verb, i.e. bù zhīdao 不知道.

(zhīdao) 你知道吗？	(zhīdao) 我知道。 我不知道。
他知道吗？	他知道。 他不知道。



New words and expressions

谁的	shéi de	whose shéi- who
尺	chǐ	ruler
剪刀	jiǎndāo	scissors jiǎn- to cut; dāo- knife
笔	bǐ	pen
书	shū	book
毛笔	máobǐ	writing brush máo- fur, feather, wool; bǐ- pen
书包	shūbāo	school bag shū- book; bāo- bag
橡皮	xiàngpí	eraser xiàng- rubber tree; pí- skin, leather
这	zhè	this
什么	shénme	what
不	bù	no, not (used to form negative) —tone changes to second when followed by a fourth tone, e.g. bú shì 不是
知道	zhīdao	to know
吗	ma	(a question word)
那	nà	that
的	de	(a possessive particle used after the pronoun or noun)
我的	wǒ de	my, mine
大概	dàgài	probably dà- big; gài- approximate
你的	nǐ de	your, yours
不是	bú shì	no (negative form of shì 是)
小明	Xiǎomíng	a Chinese given name xiǎo- small, little; míng- bright
是的	shìde	yes (positive answer to questions using the verb shì 是)
不客气	bú kèqi	not at all, don't mention it, you're welcome bù, bú- no, not; kèqi- polite
和	hé	and



Supplementary words

Nouns for students

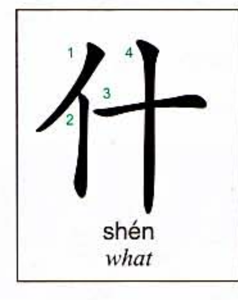
教室	jiàoshì	classroom	椅子	yǐzi	chair
门	mén	door	铅笔	qiānbǐ	pencil
窗户	chuānghu	window	铅笔盒	qiānbǐhé	pencil case
黑板	hēibǎn	blackboard	圆珠笔	yuánzhūbǐ	biro, ball-point pen
黑板擦	hēibǎncā	blackboard duster	胶水	jiāoshuǐ	glue
粉笔	fěnbǐ	chalk	彩笔	cǎibǐ	colour pencil
桌子	zhuōzi	desk	纸	zhǐ	paper



Write the characters


zhè
this


nà
that


shén
what

么
me
(word ending)

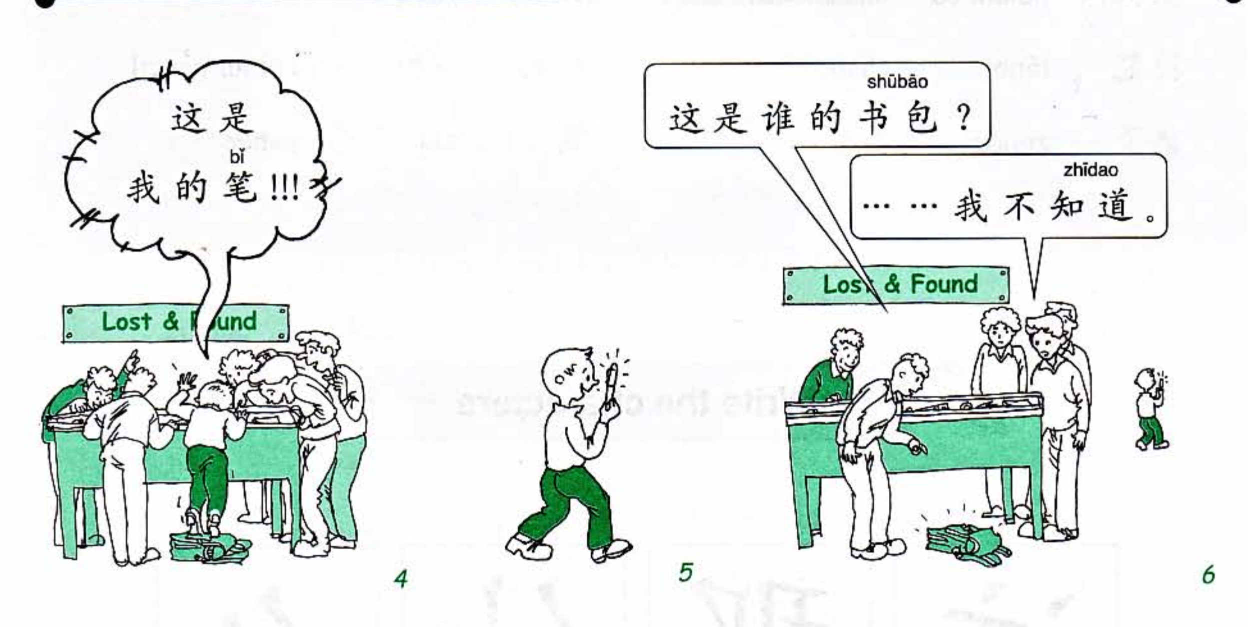

ma
(question word)

的
de
(possessive particle)


bù
not

'Found and Lost'





A rhyme

一二三、三二一，

chǐ jiǎndāo shū hé bǐ
尺、剪刀、书和笔；

一二三四五六七，

máobǐ shūbāo hé xiàngpí
毛笔、书包和橡皮。



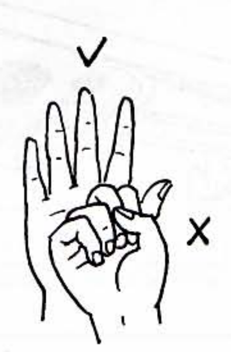
Something to know

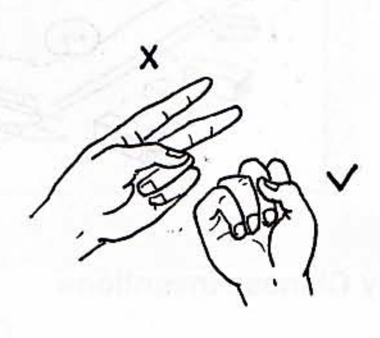
The finger-guessing game

Chinese children often use 'finger-guessing' to decide what game to play or who will be the first player in a game. This finger-guessing game is called cāiquán [猜拳]—guess the fist. The players thrust out a hand in one of three ways: scissors, stone or cloth. Jiǎndāo [剪刀] (scissors) is formed by extending and separating the index and middle fingers. Shítou [石头] (stone) is formed by making a fist and bù [布] (cloth) is formed by an open hand. The winner is:

scissors	cut	cloth	=	scissors win
cloth	wraps	stone	=	cloth wins
stone	breaks	scissors	=	stone wins







When playing the finger-guessing game, the players usually chant jiǎndāo 剪刀、shítou 石头、bù 布 and thrust out their hands, or alternatively say 一、二、三.

Calligraphy

Shūfǎ [书法] (calligraphy) is a Chinese art. Most Chinese artists are skilled in both calligraphy and painting as they are related art forms. The Chinese believe that an artist should be a master of the brush and should be able to write well.

The four traditional tools for calligraphy are the máobǐ [毛笔] (brush), the mò [墨] (ink-stick), the zhǐ [纸] (paper), and the yàntái [砚台] (ink-stone). The ink-stick is ground on the ink-stone

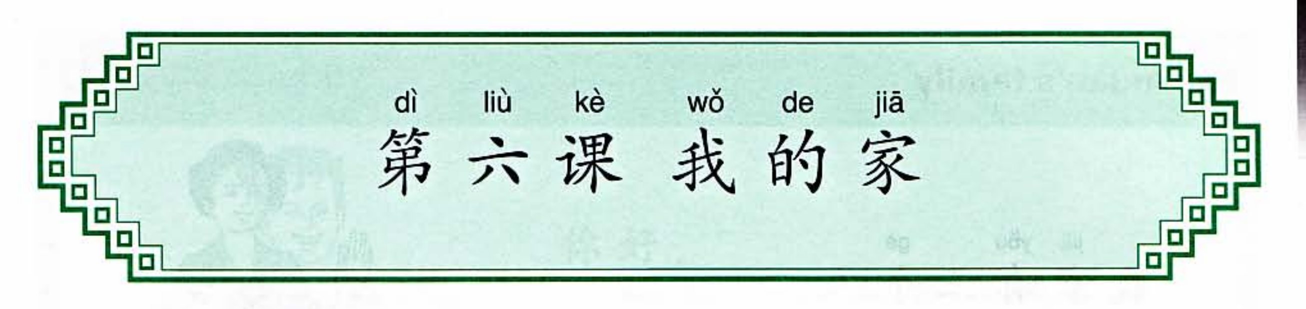
with a little water to make ink. To save time, many people nowadays use bottled ink instead. Good calligraphy is treasured as much as a good painting. People frame and hang calligraphy on their walls to appreciate and admire it as they would a painting.

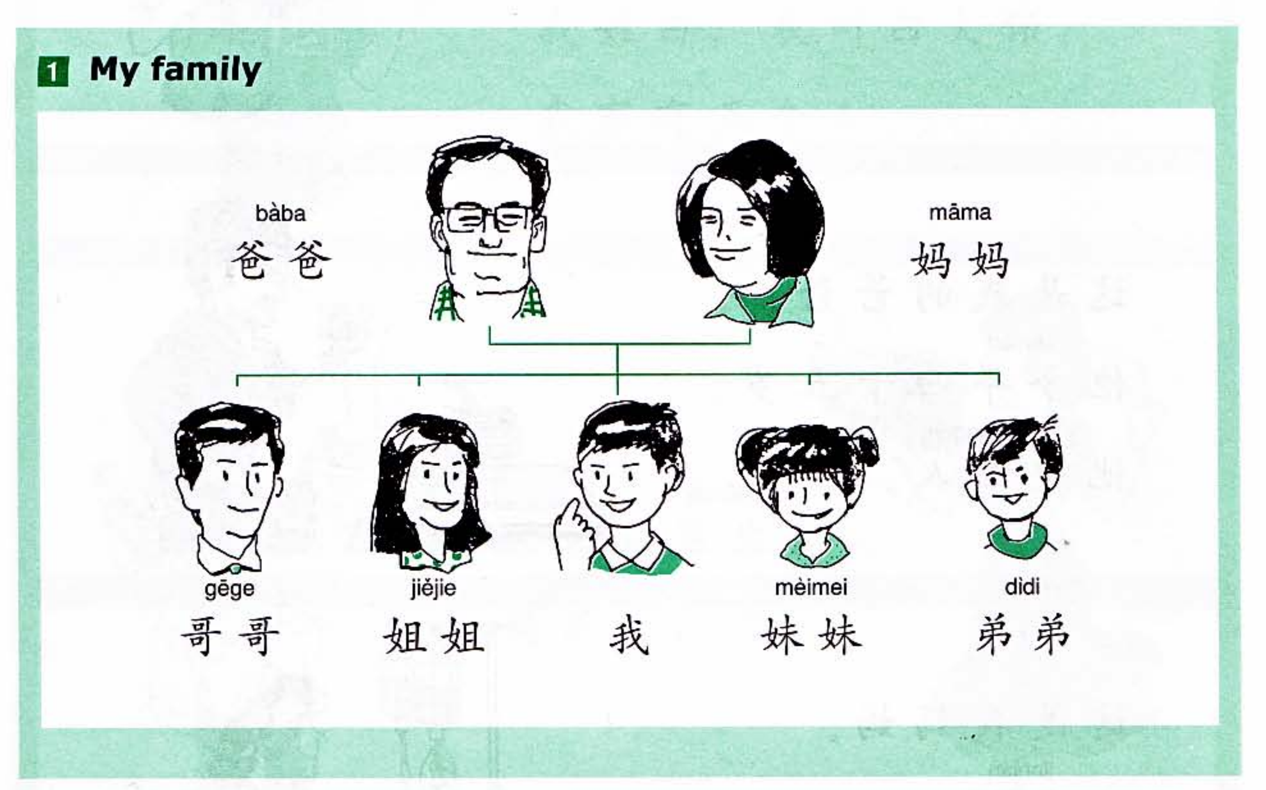


Early Chinese inventions

Paper, gunpowder and the compass are the three most commonly known Chinese inventions. Chinese first used silk floss then linen pulp to make paper. In 105 AD, Cai Lun further improved the technique by pounding bark, linen scraps and old fish nets into a pulp which was spread to form paper. This 'Cai Lun' paper was then popularly used. Gunpowder was invented by Chinese between 220 and 280 AD. By the 10th century, the use of gunpowder was common. However, gunpowder was first used to power rockets and firecrackers rather than for military, engineering or mining purposes. It was more than 2,000 years ago when the earth's magnetism was observed by the Chinese and a magnetised needle device was developed in the 11th century.

China has the longest history of producing silk and its exporting of silk formed 'silk roads' to the West and to northeast Asia. Bi Sheng invented moveable type for printing in the 11th century, around 400 years before Gutenberg's printing of the Latin Bible in the West. It was also recorded that Chinese used a silver-tin amalgam to fill holes in teeth over one thousand years ago.





我的家

adapted from〈妹妹抱着洋娃娃〉

我家有七个人。我有爸爸和(hé)妈妈。

我有哥哥和(hé)姐姐；也(yě)有弟弟和(hé)妹妹。

2 Lanlan's family



jiā yǒu gè
我家有三个人。



这是我的爸爸。
jīnnián
他今年四十五岁。
gōngrén
他是工人。



这是我妈妈。
jīnnián
她今年三十八岁。
hùshi
她是护士。



这是我。
jīnnián
我今年十二岁。
xuésheng
我是学生。

3 David's family



你好。

xìng Bái jiào Bái Dàwěi

我姓白，我叫白大伟。

我家有五个人。



yīshēng

我爸爸是医生。

我妈妈是老师。





我有一个哥哥，一个妹妹。

jiào Bǎoluó

我哥哥叫保罗 (Paul)。

jiào Lìli

我妹妹叫丽丽 (Lily)。



4 Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Lànlan
兰兰，你家有几个人？





ne
我家有三个人，你家呢？

我家有五个人。



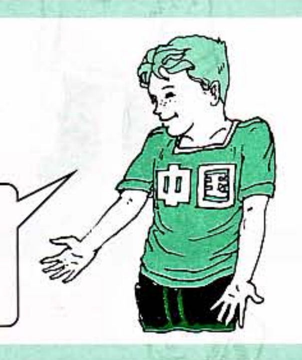
你有哥哥吗？



有，我有一个哥哥。



你有姐姐吗？



méi
没有，我没有姐姐。

你有弟弟、妹妹吗？





méi
我没有弟弟；
我有一个妹妹。



Learn the sentences

Asking about family

English sometimes uses words to state the number of things, for example, a piece of paper, a loaf of bread, a pair of shoes. Chinese, however, needs a measure word for everything, even people. The common measure word used for people is gè 个. To say one person, say yí gè rén 一个人.

To ask How many people are there in your family? say Nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ gè rén? 你家有几个人？ To answer the question, replace jǐ 几 with the number of people.

你家有几个人？ (jiā yǒu gè)	我家有三个人。 我家有五个人。
他家有几个人？	他家有七个人。 他家有六个人。

Stating occupation

To state someone's occupation, use the verb shì 是 followed by the occupation. To say He is a doctor. say Tā shì yīshēng. 他是医生。

他是医生。 (yīshēng)
我是学生。 (xuésheng)
我爸爸是工人。 (gōngrén)
我哥哥是老师。

Asking someone's name

To ask What is your name? say Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi? 你叫什么名字？ To tell someone your family name, say wǒ xìng 我姓 followed by your family name. To tell someone your full name or just your given name, say wǒ jiào 我叫 followed by your full name or your given name. Remember, when saying your full name, always say your family name first and then your given name.

jiào míngzi 你叫什么名字？	xìng Bái jiào Bái Dàwěi 我姓白，叫白大伟。 Lǐ Lǐ Lánlan 我姓李，叫李兰兰。 Bái Bǎoluó 我叫白保罗。 Lìli 我叫丽丽。

Asking about brothers and sisters

To ask Do you have any elder brothers? say Nǐ yǒu gēge ma? 你有哥哥吗？ The same pattern is used to ask about elder sisters, younger brothers and younger sisters.

We learnt in lesson five that to answer yes to this type of question, repeat the verb, which in this example is yǒu 有. To answer no, use the negative form of the verb. The negative word used for yǒu 有 is méi 没, so the answer to this question is either yǒu 有 or méi yǒu 没有.

你有哥哥吗？	有，我有两个哥哥。 méi 没有，我没有哥哥。
你有妹妹吗？	有，我有一个妹妹。 我没有妹妹。



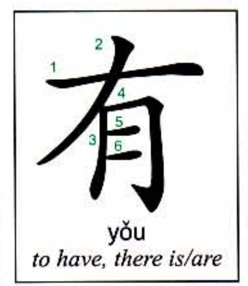
New words and expressions

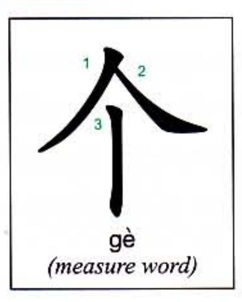
家	jiā	family, home
爸爸	bàba	dad, father
妈妈	māma	mum, mother
哥哥	gēge	elder brother
姐姐	jiějie	elder sister
弟弟	dìdi	younger brother
妹妹	mèimei	younger sister
有	yǒu	to have, there is/are
个	gè	(a common measure word which can be used for people)
也	yě	also, too
工人	gōngrén	labourer, worker gōng- work; rén- person, people
护士	hùshi	nurse hù- to nurse; shì- a person trained in a certain field
学生	xuésheng	student, pupil xué- to learn, to study; shēng- pupil; student, person
姓	xìng	family name, surname
叫	jiào	to be called, to call
医生	yīshēng	doctor yī- to cure; shēng- pupil, student, person
保罗	Bǎoluó	Chinese for Paul bǎo- to keep; luó- to collect
丽丽	Lìli	Chinese for Lily lì- beautiful
呢	ne	(a question word) how about, e.g. nǐ ne 你呢？ – how about you?
		nǐ jiā ne 你家呢？ – how about your family?
没	méi	(a negative word)
没有	méi yǒu	not have
名字	míngzi	name




Write the characters





















Supplementary words

More about the family

爷爷	yéye	grandad, grandfather
奶奶	nǎinai	grandma, grandmother
继父	jìfù	stepfather
继母	jìmǔ	stepmother
伯伯	bóbo	father's elder brother
叔叔	shūshu	father's younger brother (pronounced as shúshu in Taiwan)
舅舅	jiùjiu	mother's brother
姑姑	gūgu	father's sister
姨	yí	mother's sister (said as āyí 阿姨 in Taiwan)
丈夫	zhàngfu	husband
妻子	qīzi	wife
先生	xiānsheng	Mr, also used as husband
太太	tàitai	Mrs, also used as wife
儿子	érzi	son
女儿	nǚ'ér	daughter

Not what it seems



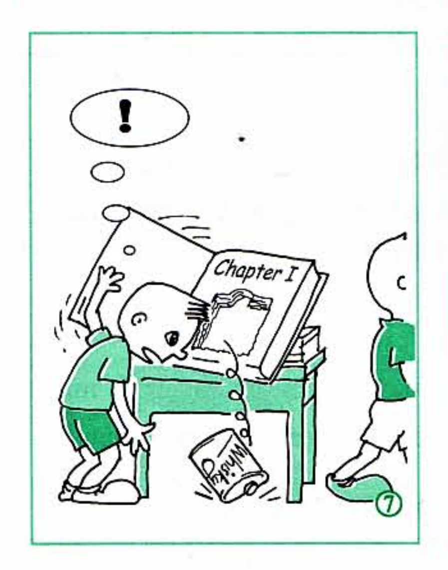














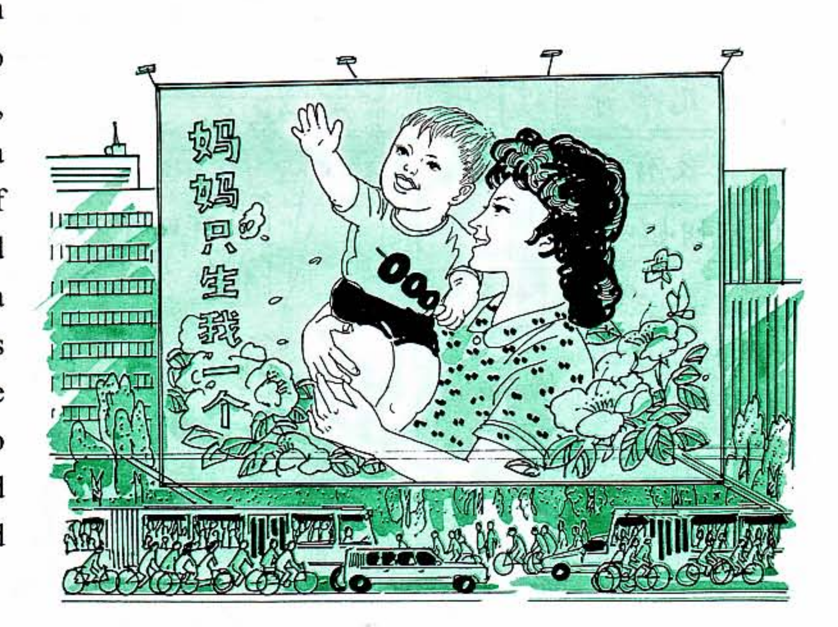




Family size

Traditionally, the Chinese had big families. Three or four generations, including brothers' and cousins' families, usually all lived together in one large house. However, this situation has changed dramatically since the beginning of the 20th century. Small families made up of parents and their unmarried children have become more and more common.

The large family tradition was further shattered in the 1970s when the *one family, one child policy* was introduced. People used to like having many children, especially sons to carry on the family name and to help with work. The policy, aiming to reduce the population growth, was strictly practised and as a result, a great proportion of families have been down-sized to three members. Although a change to this policy in 2000 has allowed some families to have two children, it only applies to families where both husband and wife are from single child families.



Something about characters

Long ago, pigs were considered to be important family members as they represented the wealth of the family. The early form of the character 家 jiā (family or home), was written as 家 which is a pig 豕 under a shelter 宀.

The character 妈 mā (mother) has the radical for woman 女 nǚ, while the character 吗 ma (a question word) has the radical for mouth 口 kǒu. Both these characters take their sound, but in different tones, from the element horse 马 mǎ.

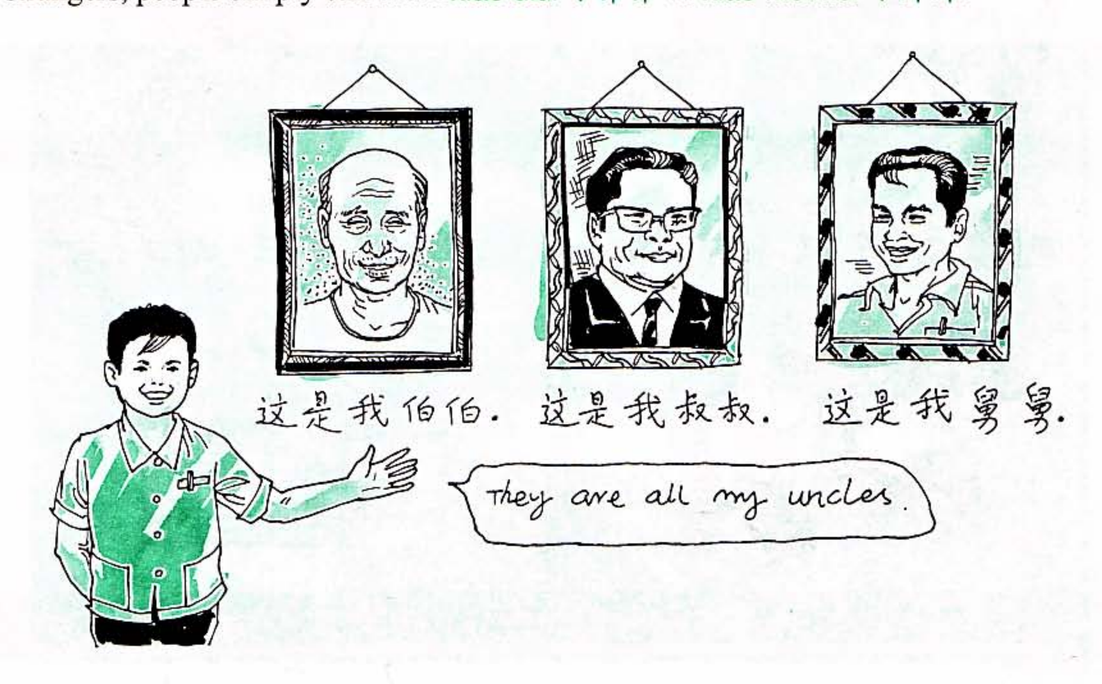
Addressing family members

In the traditional large Chinese family, a system based on respect has been developed to keep the family in harmony. Under this system, one does not call older members of the family by their given names but uses forms of address or titles instead.

The forms of address used are more complicated than those used in Western countries. The brothers of both parents are all called 'uncles' in the West. In China however, the father's elder brothers are called bóbo [伯伯] and his younger brothers are called shūshu [叔叔]. All the mother's brothers are called jiùjiu [舅舅]. Similarly, there are different forms of address for the father's sisters, the mother's sisters and the wives of the uncles—all of whom are called 'aunts' or 'aunties' in the West.

Elder brothers are called gēge [哥哥] and elder sisters are called jiějie [姐姐] by their younger siblings. If there is more than one elder brother or sister, an order title is added ahead of the address, i.e. dàgē [大哥], èrgē [二哥], sāngē [三哥], dàjiě [大姐], èrjiě [二姐], sānjiě [三姐], etc. This also applies to cousins, i.e. elder cousins are called gēge 哥哥 and jiějie 姐姐 by their younger cousins.

Some addresses are not only used among relatives, they are also commonly used among friends or even strangers. People often add the surname of an elder friend ahead of gēge 哥哥or jiějie 姐姐 to address him/her. For example, they call an elder male friend whose surname is Lín 林 as Lín Gē 林哥, and call an elder female friend whose surname is Lǐ 李 as Lǐ Jiě 李姐. To children who are strangers, people simply call them xiǎo dìdi 小弟弟 or xiǎo mèimei 小妹妹.



dì qī kè wǒ jiā de chǒngwù

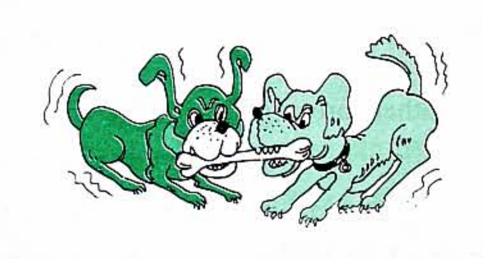
第七课 我家的宠物

1 What pets do you have?

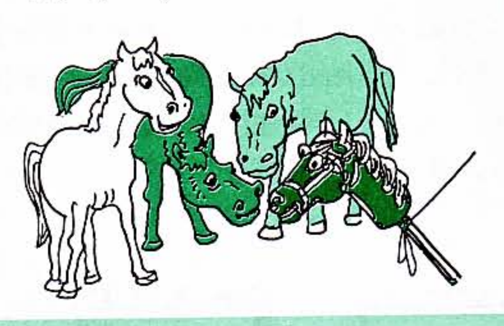
chǒngwù
你家有什么宠物？



zhī gǒu
我家有两只狗。



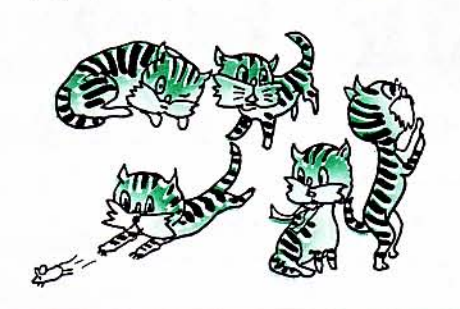
pǐ mǎ
我家有四匹马。



tiáo jīnyú
我家有六条金鱼。



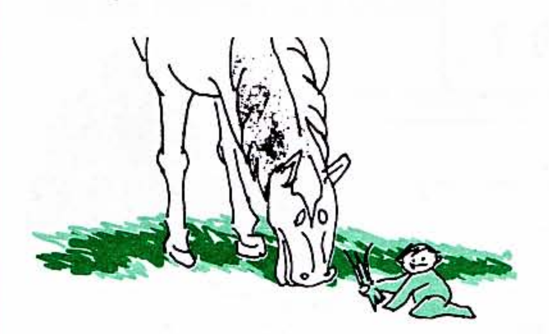
zhī māo
我家有五只猫。



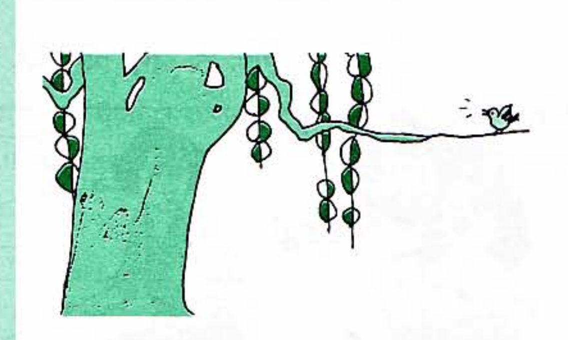
zhī niǎo
我家有三只鸟。



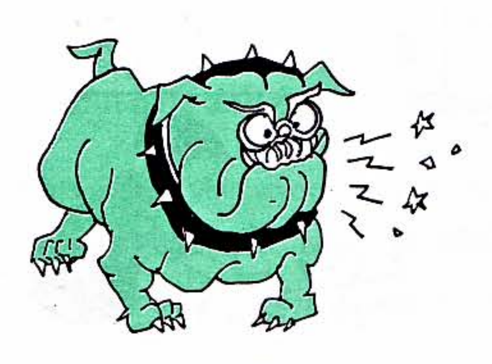
2 Opposites



pǐ hěn dà
这匹马很大。



niǎo hěn xiǎo
那只鸟很小。



hěn xiōng
这只狗很凶。



māo kě'ài
这只猫很可爱。



xiōng
这个人很凶。



kě'ài
这个妹妹很可爱。

3 **A cute dog**


那只狗是谁的？
是我的。


zhēn
你的狗真小。
a　tā　kě'ài
是啊！它很可爱。


你有没有狗？
有，我有一只狗。
xiōng
我的狗很大，很凶。





Learn the sentences

Stating the number of animals

We learnt in lesson six that when stating the number of things, measure words are needed and that the measure word for people is gè 个. When counting birds, dogs or cats, use zhī 只. The measure word used for horse is pǐ 匹 and for fish tiáo 条.

我家有三只(zhī)狗(gǒu)。
他家有两匹(pǐ)马(mǎ)。
她家有五条(tiáo)金鱼(jīnyú)。

Asking about pets and family members

To ask What pets do you have? say Nǐ jiā yǒu shénme chǒngwù/dòngwù? 你家有什么宠物/动物？To answer the question, replace shénme chǒngwù 什么宠物 with the kind of pet you have. The same sentence pattern can be used to ask What family members do you have？Nǐ jiā yǒu shénme rén? 你家有什么人？

你家有什么宠物(chǒngwù)？ 你家有什么动物(dòngwù)？	我家有六只猫(māo)。 我家有四匹(pǐ)马。 我家有一只狗和(hé)两只猫(māo)。
你家有什么人？	我家有爸爸、妈妈、哥哥和(hé)我。 我家有妈妈、弟弟和(hé)我。

Describing things

Measure words are not only used between the number and the object, they are also used with the words zhè 这 and nà 那. To say this dog, say zhè zhī gǒu 这只狗.

An adjective in Chinese is used in front of the noun it qualifies, therefore to say big dog, say dà gǒu 大狗. When an adjective is used after the noun, it turns into a special kind of verb called a stative verb. Stative verbs take the place of the verb 是 shì, and normally use adverbs such as hěn 很 (very) and zhēn 真 (really) in front of them. To say This dog is very big. say Zhè zhī gǒu hěn dà. 这只狗很大。Notice that the verb shì 是 is not needed.

hěn 这只狗很大。 māo kě'ài 这只猫很可爱。 xiōng 那个人很凶。

Asking if someone has pets

We learnt in lessons five and six that the question word ma 吗 can be placed at the end of a statement to change it into a question. There is another way to change a statement into a question, that is to add a negative form of the verb right after the verb in the statement. There are now two verbs in the sentence: the original verb followed by the negative of the same verb. So to ask Do you have a dog? say:

Nǐ jiā yǒu gǒu ma ? 你家有狗吗？	or	Nǐ jiā yǒu méi yǒu gǒu? 你家有没有狗？

It is important to become familiar with these two ways of asking questions as they are both commonly used by the Chinese.

你家有狗吗？	有，我家有一只狗。 没有，我家没有狗。
你家有没有狗？	有，我家有两只狗。 我家没有狗。



New words and expressions

宠物	chǒngwù	pet chǒng- to spoil, to favour; wù- object, thing
只	zhī	(a measure word used for some animals, i.e. dogs, cats, birds)
狗	gǒu	dog
匹	pǐ	(a measure word used for horses, pronounced as pī in Taiwan)
马	mǎ	horse
条	tiáo	(a measure word for some long and thin objects)
金鱼	jīnyú	goldfish jīn- gold; yú- fish
猫	māo	cat
鸟	niǎo	bird
很	hěn	very
大	dà	big, large
小	xiǎo	small, little (in size)
凶	xiōng	fierce, ferocious
可爱	kě'ài	lovely kě- lovely, can, may; ài- to love
真	zhēn	really
是啊	shì a	yes, yeah (shows agreement)
它	tā	it
动物	dòngwù	animal dòng- to move; wù- object, thing
跑来跑去	pǎolái-pǎoqù	to run around pǎo- to run; lái- to come; qù- to go
它们	tāmen	they (plural of tā 它)
都	dōu	all

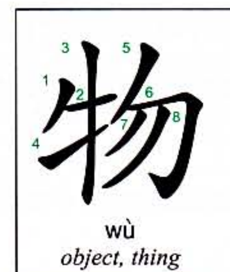
Something about characters

When describing something big, we often extend our arms to help our description. The early form of the character 大 dà (big) was written as 大, which has a similar appearance to a person standing with legs apart and arms extended. The early form of the character 小 xiǎo (small) was written as /|\, resembling a picture of a person with his arms at his side to indicate small.



Write the characters





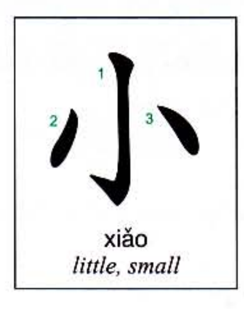
















Supplementary words

Living things around us

熊猫	xióngmāo	panda
袋鼠	dàishǔ	kangaroo
考拉(树熊)	kǎolā (shùxióng)	koala, called wúwěixióng 無尾熊 in Taiwan
苍蝇	cāngying	fly
蚊子	wénzi	mosquito
蚂蚁	mǎyǐ	ant
蟑螂	zhāngláng	cockroach
蝴蝶	húdié	butterfly
蜜蜂	mìfēng	bee
鸭子	yāzi	duck
蝙蝠	biānfú	bat
鳄鱼	èyú	crocodile



A family portrait



我叫马九山。我家有四个人。我有爸爸、妈妈和一个妹妹。

我爸爸今年四十七岁。他是老师。我妈妈三十九岁。她是医生(yīshēng)。我今年十二岁，我妹妹六岁。我们都是学生(xuésheng)。

我家有很多宠物。我们有三只猫(māo)，一只鸟(niǎo)和两只狗。猫(māo)是妈妈的，鸟(niǎo)是妹妹的。狗一只是爸爸的，一只是我的。爸爸的狗很大，很凶(xiōng)；我的狗很小，很可爱(kě'ài)。

The more the better?













Something to know



老鼠	lǎoshǔ	rat, mouse
牛	niú	cow, ox
老虎	lǎohǔ	tiger
兔子	tùzi	rabbit, hare
龙	lóng	dragon
蛇	shé	snake, serpent
马	mǎ	horse
羊	yáng	goat, ram
猴子	hóuzi	monkey
鸡	jī	rooster, chicken
狗	gǒu	dog
猪	zhū	pig, boar

The twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac

Unlike the Western zodiac, which is a twelve-month cycle, the Chinese zodiac is a twelve-year cycle and is based on twelve animals, called shí'èr shēngxiào [十二生肖]. Each animal represents a year and the corresponding zodiac sign is thought to affect the prosperity of that year and the fate of those born that year.

People born in the year of the 'rat' are presumed to be intelligent and popular; those born in the year of the 'ox' are methodical and conscientious workers. The 'tiger' person is courageous and charismatic; the 'rabbit' is a well-mannered pacifist; the 'dragon' is ambitious and has the quality of leadership; the 'snake' has an active mind and enjoys a challenge; the 'horse' is charming and enjoys being the centre of attention; the 'goat' is creative and has an easy-going nature; the 'monkey' is imaginative and curious; the 'rooster' is flamboyant and well-read; the 'dog' is honourable and has a strong sense of fair play; the 'pig' is honest and has an understanding nature.

The rat	The ox	The tiger
1948年2月10日–1949年1月28日	1949年1月29日–1950年2月16日	1950年2月17日–1951年2月5日
1960年1月28日–1961年2月14日	1961年2月15日–1962年2月4日	1962年2月5日–1963年1月24日
1972年2月15日–1973年2月2日	1973年2月3日–1974年1月22日	1974年1月23日–1975年2月10日
1984年2月2日–1985年2月19日	1985年2月20日–1986年2月8日	1986年2月9日–1987年1月28日
1996年2月19日–1997年2月7日	1997年2月8日–1998年1月27日	1998年1月28日–1999年2月15日

The rabbit	The dragon	The snake
1951年2月6日–1952年1月26日	1952年1月27日–1953年2月13日	1953年2月14日–1954年2月2日
1963年1月25日–1964年2月12日	1964年2月13日–1965年2月1日	1965年2月2日–1966年1月20日
1975年2月11日–1976年1月30日	1976年1月31日–1977年2月17日	1977年2月18日–1978年2月6日
1987年1月29日–1988年2月16日	1988年2月17日–1989年2月5日	1989年2月6日–1990年1月26日
1999年2月16日–2000年2月4日	2000年2月5日–2001年1月23日	2001年1月24日–2002年2月11日

The horse	The goat	The monkey
1954年2月3日–1955年1月23日	1955年1月24日–1956年2月11日	1956年2月12日–1957年1月30日
1966年1月21日–1967年2月8日	1967年2月9日–1968年1月29日	1968年1月30日–1969年2月16日
1978年2月7日–1979年1月27日	1979年1月28日–1980年2月15日	1980年2月16日–1981年2月4日
1990年1月27日–1991年2月14日	1991年2月15日–1992年2月3日	1992年2月4日–1993年1月22日
2002年2月12日–2003年1月31日	2003年2月1日–2004年1月21日	2004年1月22日–2005年2月8日

The rooster	The dog	The pig
1957年1月31日–1958年2月17日	1958年2月18日–1959年2月7日	1959年2月8日–1960年1月27日
1969年2月17日–1970年2月5日	1970年2月6日–1971年1月26日	1971年1月27日–1972年2月14日
1981年2月5日–1982年1月24日	1982年1月25日–1983年2月12日	1983年2月13日–1984年2月1日
1993年1月23日–1994年2月9日	1994年2月10日–1995年1月30日	1995年1月31日–1996年2月18日

The Chinese zodiac is based on the lunar calendar, so the first day of the Chinese year is not the first of January as on the calendar we use today. The chart above will help you find your Chinese zodiac sign. Most Chinese know the sign of the animal in which they are born and fortune-tellers sometimes take it into consideration when people seek advice in choosing a wife or a husband. However this is regarded as superstitious by some people.

Why these twelve animals?

Long ago, people did not know how to count the years and so they asked the Jade Emperor, Yùhuáng Dàdì [玉皇大帝], for help. The Jade Emperor decided to hold a race through a forest and across a river on his birthday with all of the animals as competitors and decreed that each of the first twelve would have a year named after it.

At the time, the rat and the cat were good friends and so they decided to help each other. Worrying that they might sleep in, they asked the ox, who was an early riser, for help. On the morning of the race, the ox, seeing that the rat and the cat were too sleepy to get up, told them to jump on his back and he would carry them. When the ox was crossing the river, the rat woke up and realised that the cat, who was a fast runner, would certainly come first, so he pushed the cat into the river. As soon as the ox reached the river bank the rat ran as fast as he could and won the race, with the ox in second place. The tiger came third and the rabbit, who jumped across the river on the backs of the other animals, came fourth. The dragon, who was certainly the fastest but had to go to the east to make rain, came fifth. The snake and the horse came next, followed by the goat, the monkey and the rooster, who shared a tree trunk to cross the river. The dog came eleventh and finally the pig managed to make last place.

The cat finally arrived while the twelve victorious animals were celebrating. When he found that he was too late he tried to catch the rat for revenge and that is why cats, to this day, like to catch rats and mice to eat.

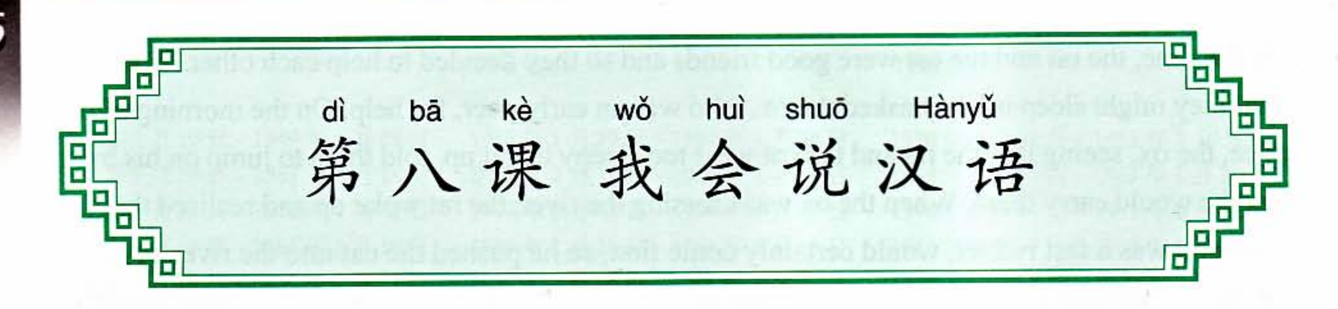
The giant panda

The giant panda, called dà xióngmāo [大熊猫], is a unique Chinese animal and its cuddly appearance has made it popular throughout the world. Its diet consists mainly of bamboo. To adapt to this special diet, the panda developed a special sixth digit on its paws to help it grab and hold the young bamboo shoots.



The decrease in the area of bamboo forests has caused the number of pandas to decline. In 1988, it was estimated that the number had dwindled to around 800. The Chinese Government has now established twelve reserves in the provinces of Sichuan [Sìchuān 四川], Gansu [Gānsù 甘肃] and Shaanxi [Shǎnxī 陕西]. The most popular is the Wolong reserve in Sichuan.

There is a legend about why pandas have black fur surrounding their eyes. Once, a shepherd sacrificed his life rescuing a young panda from being eaten by a leopard. The pandas held a ceremony to honour the heroic shepherd and they were so sad during the ceremony that they wept until the tears stained the fur surrounding their eyes, and the stain remains today.



dì bā kè wǒ huì shuō Hànyǔ
第八课我会说汉语

1 Countries



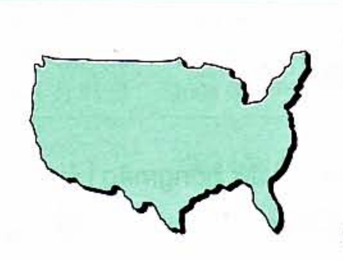
Zhōngguó
中国



Àodàlìyà
澳大利亚



Yīngguó
英国



Měiguó
美国



Jiānádà
加拿大



Déguó
德国



Rìběn
日本



Xīnxīlán
新西兰

2 Where are you from?



nǎ
大伟，你是哪国人？

Àodàlìyàrén
我是澳大利亚人。





nǎ
你是哪国人？

我是中国人。





Mǎkè　nǎ
马克，你是哪国人？

Xīnxīlánrén
我是新西兰人。
Yīngguórén
我爸爸是英国人。



Yīngguórén
你妈妈也是英国人吗？



Měiguórén
不是，她是美国人。



3 I am an Australian



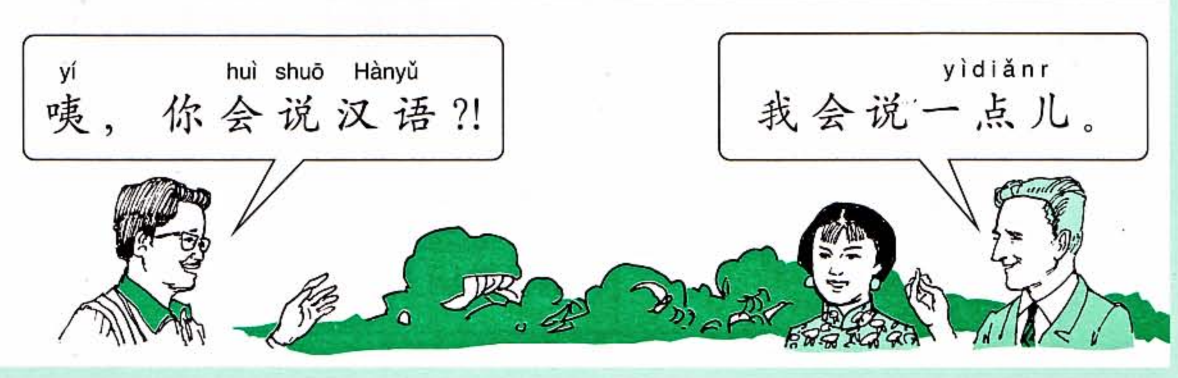




4 Can you speak Chinese?

qǐngwèn huì shuō Hànyǔ
请问，你会说汉语吗？

huì shuō Hànyǔ
她不会说汉语。







Learn the sentences

Asking about someone's nationality

To state a person's nationality, simply add rén 人 after the name of the country.

澳大利亚	Àodàlìyà	>	澳大利亚人	Àodàlìyàrén	Australian
中国	Zhōngguó	>	中国人	Zhōngguórén	Chinese
美国	Měiguó	>	美国人	Měiguórén	American
英国	Yīngguó	>	英国人	Yīngguórén	British
日本	Rìběn	>	日本人	Rìběnrén	Japanese
德国	Déguó	>	德国人	Déguórén	German
加拿大	Jiānádà	>	加拿大人	Jiānádàrén	Canadian
新西兰	Xīnxīlán	>	新西兰人	Xīnxīlánrén	New Zealander

To ask a person his/her nationality, say Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén? 你是哪国人？To answer the question, replace nǎ guó rén 哪国人 with the nationality.

你是哪国(nǎ guó)人？	我是澳大利亚(Àodàlìyà)人(rén)。
	我是中国人。
他是哪(nǎ)国人？	他是日本人(Rìběnrén)。
她是哪(nǎ)国人？	她是美国人(Měiguórén)。



Asking if someone is of a certain nationality

We learnt in lesson seven that there are two ways to ask questions that can be answered by saying yes or no; both ways can be used to ask someone if he or she is of a certain nationality. To ask Are you Chinese? say:

Nǐ shì Zhōngguórén ma? 你是中国人吗？ or Nǐ shì bú shì Zhōngguórén? 你是不是中国人？

你是中国人吗？ Déguórén 他是德国人吗？	a 是啊，我是中国人。 不是，我不是中国人。 Déguórén 是的，他是德国人。 Déguórén 他不是德国人。
你是不是中国人？ Yīngguórén 他是不是英国人？	是，我是中国人。 我不是中国人。 Yīngguórén 他是英国人。 Yīngguórén 他不是英国人。



Asking about language ability

To ask someone if he or she can speak a certain language, again both ways of asking questions can be used.

Nǐ huì shuō Hànyǔ ma?　　or　　Nǐ huì bú huì shuō Hànyǔ?
你会说汉语吗？　　　　　　你会不会说汉语？

Hànyǔ 你会说汉语吗？ Yīngyǔ 他会说英语吗？	我会。 yìdiǎnr 我会说一点儿。 Yīngyǔ 会，他会说英语。 bú　Yīngyǔ 不会，他不会说英语。
Hànyǔ 你会不会说汉语？ Rìyǔ 你会不会说日语？ Déyǔ 他会不会说德语？	yìdiǎnr 我会说一点儿。 Rìyǔ 我不会说日语。 他会。 他不会。

Describing language ability

To say You speak very well. say Nǐ shuō de hěn hǎo. 你说得很好。 To reply Not at all, say Nǎli, nǎli. 哪里，哪里。 Chinese use de 得 after a verb to lead to the degree or result of the action of this verb, i.e. to say speak very well, say shuō de hěn hǎo 说得很好, and to say don't speak well, say shuō de bù hǎo 说得不好.

de 你说得很好。 我说得不好。	nǎli 哪里，哪里。 哪里，你说得很好。



New words and expressions

会	huì	can, to be able to
说	shuō	to speak, to say
汉语	Hànyǔ	Chinese language Hàn- a Chinese dynasty; yǔ- language
中国	Zhōngguó	China zhōng- centre, middle; guó- country
澳大利亚	Àodàlìyà	Australia, also called Àozhōu 澳洲 in Taiwan ào- bay; dà- big; lì- sharp; yà- Asia, second; zhōu- continent
英国	Yīngguó	England (transliteration) yīng- hero
美国	Měiguó	America (transliteration), USA* měi- beautiful
加拿大	Jiānádà	Canada (transliteration) jiā- to add; ná- to take; dà- big
德国	Déguó	Germany (transliteration- Deutschland) dé- virtue, morals
日本	Rìběn	Japan rì- sun, day; běn- basis, origin
新西兰	Xīnxīlán	New Zealand, called Nǐuxīlán 纽西兰 in Taiwan xīn- new; xī- west; lán- orchid; niǔ- bound
哪	nǎ	which
国	guó	country
对不起	duìbuqǐ	excuse me, sorry
没关系	méi guānxi	it doesn't matter, that's all right méi- not; guānxi- matter
请问	qǐngwèn	may I ask qǐng- please; wèn- to ask
小妹妹	xiǎomèimei	little girl
不会	bú huì	to be unable to, cannot
咦	yí	why! huh! (indicating surprise)
一点儿	yìdiǎnr	a little, a bit
得	de	(used after a verb to indicate the degree or result)
哪里	nǎli	not at all (said when praised; literally where)
英语	Yīngyǔ	English language
日语	Rìyǔ	Japanese language
德语	Déyǔ	German language



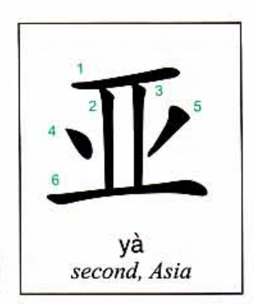
Write the characters

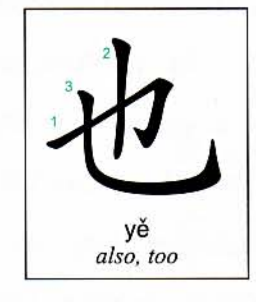

zhōng *middle*


guó *country*

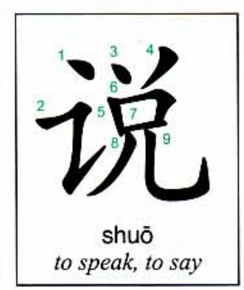

ào *bay*


lì *sharp*


yà *second, Asia*


yě *also, too*


huì *can, be able to*


shuō *to speak, to say*

A personal profile

她姓山口，叫小美，今年十六岁，是学生。小美是澳大利亚人。她爸爸是日本人，妈妈是中国人。小美有一个哥哥、两个姐姐和一个妹妹。小美会说英语、汉语和日语。她英语和汉语说得很好，日语说得不好。小美的宠物是一匹马和一只鸟。她的马叫山山；她的鸟叫亚亚。山山很小，很可爱；亚亚很大，很凶。

(xìng 姓, jiào 叫, Xiǎoměi 小美, jīnnián 今年, xuésheng 学生, Rìběnrén 日本人, hé 和, Yīngyǔ 英语, Hànyǔ 汉语, Rìyǔ 日语, de 得, pǐ 匹, niǎo 鸟, kě'ài 可爱, xiōng 凶)

Something about characters

An early form of the character 中 zhōng (centre or middle) was written as 中, which looks like a vertical line through the centre or middle of a mouth. Precious jade 玉 within a boundary 囗 forms 国 guó (country), indicating that all which is within the boundary of a country is precious.



Supplementary words

Countries

台湾	Táiwān	Taiwan	印度	Yìndù	India
香港	Xiānggǎng	Hong Kong	泰国	Tàiguó	Thailand
法国	Fǎguó	France	马来西亚	Mǎláixīyà	Malaysia
爱尔兰	Ài'ěrlán	Ireland	新加坡	Xīnjiāpō	Singapore
意大利	Yìdàlì	Italy	越南	Yuènán	Vietnam
希腊	Xīlà	Greece	菲律宾	Fēilǜbīn	the Philippines
新几内亚	Xīnjǐnèiyà	New Guinea	俄罗斯	Éluósī	Russia
墨西哥	Mòxīgē	Mexico	南非	Nánfēi	South Africa
瑞士	Ruìshì	Switzerland	西班牙	Xībānyá	Spain

The bird's words

tā Hànyǔ
它会说汉语。

tā
它不会。

tā
它会。

Hànyǔ Yīngyǔ
它不会说汉语；它会说英语。

bǐ
它会说"笔"。

bǐ
那不是"笔"，那是"bee"。

它会说"狗"。

那不是"狗"，那是"go"。

shū
它会说"你的书"。

shū
那不是"你的书"，那是"Need a shoe"！



Something to know

'Mandarin' the official Chinese language

'Mandarin' is called different names by the Chinese living in different places. Since the introduction of Pinyin and simplified characters in China, there are also variations in the form of Mandarin being used. You will find that in your local Chinese community, characters used in newspapers, publications and even menus are printed in traditional characters, while publications from China are in simplified form.

Country / area	Terms	Pronunciation system	Style of character
China	Pǔtōnghuà 普通话 Hànyǔ 汉 语 Zhōngwén 中 文	Pinyin	simplified
Taiwan	Guóyǔ 国语 Zhōngwén 中文	Phonetic symbols (ㄅㄆㄇㄈ…)	traditional
Singapore	Huáyǔ 华语	Pinyin	simplified
Hong Kong	Zhōngwén 中文 Pǔtōnghuà 普通话	Phonetic symbols, changing to Pinyin	traditional, changing to simplified
Overseas Chinese communities	Huáyǔ 华语 Zhōngwén 中文	mainly Phonetic symbols	mainly traditional



dì jiǔ kè wǒ xǐhuān yóuyǒng
第九课 我喜欢游泳

1 Sports



yóuyǒng
游泳



qíchē
骑车



pǎobù
跑步



tī zúqiú
踢足球



dǎ lánqiú
打篮球



dǎ wǎngqiú
打网球



dǎ pīngpāngqiú
打乒乓球



dǎ bǎnqiú
打板球

2 What sports do you like?

xǐhuān　yùndòng
你喜欢什么运动？

xǐhuān tī zúqiú
我喜欢踢足球。




xǐhuān qíchē
我喜欢骑车。




xǐhuān wǎngqiú
我喜欢打网球。




xǐhuān pǎobù
我喜欢跑步。

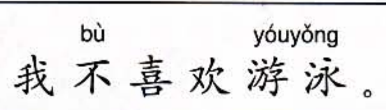





Dàwěi　yóuyǒng
大伟，你喜欢游泳吗？

ne
我喜欢，你呢？

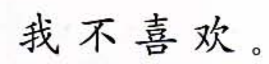




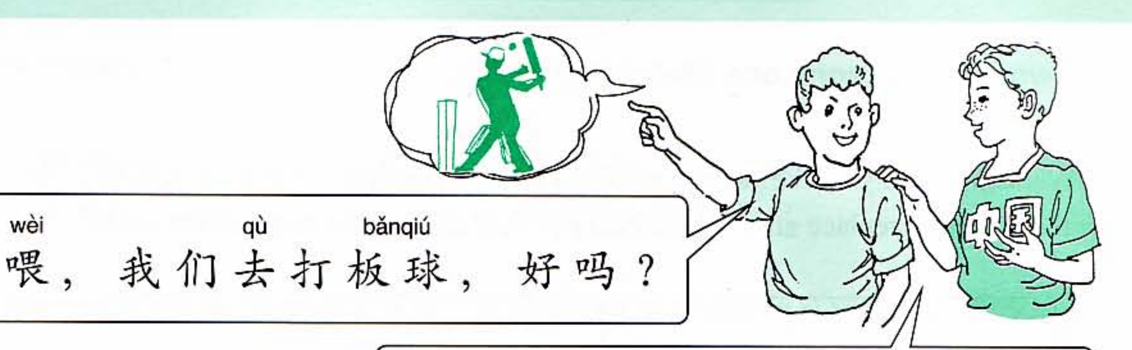


lánqiú
我喜欢打篮球。
lánqiú
你喜欢打篮球吗？

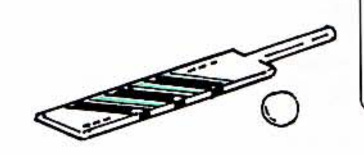




3 Let's play cricket



wèi qù bǎnqiú
喂，我们去打板球，好吗？



a zuì bǎnqiú
好啊！我最喜欢打板球。



bú qù zuì bǎnqiú
我不去。我最不喜欢打板球。



zǒu ba
我们走吧！
zàijiàn Lánlan
再见，兰兰！

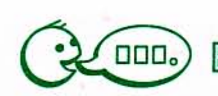


再见！



Mǎkè qù pīngpāngqiú
马克，我们去打乒乓球，好吗？

duìbuqǐ bú máng
对不起，我不去。我很忙。



Learn the sentences

Asking what sports someone likes

To ask What sports do you like? say Nǐ xǐhuān shénme yùndòng? 你喜欢什么运动？ To answer the question, replace shénme yùndòng 什么运动 with the name of the sport.

你喜欢什么运动（yùndòng）？	我喜欢游泳（yóuyǒng）。
	我喜欢打网球（wǎngqiú）。
	我喜欢骑车（qíchē）。
	我喜欢踢（tī）足球（zúqiú）。
他喜欢什么运动？	他喜欢跑步（pǎobù）。
	他喜欢打板球（bǎnqiú）。
	他喜欢踢（tī）足球（zúqiú）。
她喜欢什么运动？	她喜欢打乒乓球（pīngpāngqiú）。
	她喜欢打篮球（lánqiú）。



Asking if someone likes a certain sport

To ask someone whether he/she likes a particular sport, say:

Nǐ xǐhuān... ma? or Nǐ xǐhuān bù xǐhuān...?
你喜欢……吗？ 你喜欢不喜欢……？

The expression xǐhuān bù xǐhuān 喜欢不喜欢 can be shortened to xǐ bù xǐhuān 喜不喜欢.

你喜欢打篮球(lánqiú)吗？ 你喜欢打乒乓球(pīngpāngqiú)吗？ 你喜不喜欢踢(tī)足球(zúqiú)？ 你喜不喜欢骑车(qíchē)？	我喜欢。 我不喜欢。
他喜欢打板球(bǎnqiú)吗？ 他喜不喜欢游泳(yóuyǒng)？	他喜欢。 他不喜欢。

Suggesting an activity

English uses the expression Let's... to suggest an activity. In Chinese, say Wǒmen qù..., hǎo ma? 我们去……，好吗？ To answer OK. say Hǎo a! 好啊！ The a 啊 is used to stress that you think it's a good idea. To answer I'm not going. say Wǒ bú qù. 我不去。

我们去打网球(wǎngqiú)，好吗？ 我们去踢(tī)足球(zúqiú)，好吗？ 我们去打乒乓球(pīngpāngqiú)，好吗？	好啊！ 我不去。



New words and expressions

喜欢	xǐhuān	to like xǐ- to like, happy; huān- happy
游泳	yóuyǒng	swimming, to swim yóu- to swim; yǒng- to swim
骑车	qíchē	1. cycling (qí zìyóuchē 骑自由车); 2. to ride a bicycle (qí zìxíngchē 骑自行车 or, in Taiwan, qí jiǎotàchē 骑脚踏车) qí- to ride on something; chē- vehicle; zìyóu- freedom, free; jiǎo- foot; tà- to tread
跑步	pǎobù	running, to jog pǎo- to run; bù- step, pace
踢	tī	to kick, to play (soccer)
足球	zúqiú	soccer zú- foot; qiú- ball
打	dǎ	to hit, to play (tennis, basketball, table tennis, etc.)
篮球	lánqiú	basketball lán- basket; qiú- ball
网球	wǎngqiú	tennis wǎng- net; qiú- ball
乒乓球	pīngpāngqiú	table tennis pīng, pāng- sound of the ball hitting the table
板球	bǎnqiú	cricket bǎn- board; qiú- ball
运动	yùndòng	sports, exercise yùn- to transport; dòng- to move
喂	wèi	hey!
去	qù	to go
好吗	hǎo ma	OK? (an expression to ask for agreement)
好啊	hǎo a	good! (agreeing)
最	zuì	most
不去	bú qù	not going (negative form of qù 去)
走	zǒu	to go, to walk
吧	ba	(expression used at the end of a sentence to indicate suggestion)
我们走吧	wǒmen zǒu ba	let's go
忙	máng	busy

Something about characters

When we are happy, we may feel like singing. The character 喜 xǐ (happy) was once written as 喜 which shows music 壴 coming out of a mouth 口. The music is represented by the shape of a drum 豆 with decoration 业.



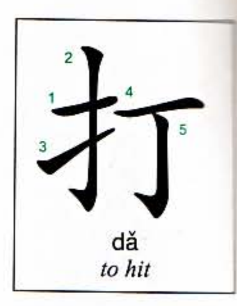
Write the characters









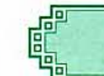


球	去	吧
qiú *ball*	qù *to go*	ba *(grammatical word)*

Amazing pets



他叫(jiào)林(Lín)大利，今年(jīnnián)九十四岁，是美国人(Měiguórén)。他爸爸是中国人。林(Lín)大利会说汉语(Hànyǔ)，也会说一点儿(yìdiǎnr)日语(Rìyǔ)。他有三匹(pǐ)马、四只狗、两只猫(māo)、十八条(tiáo)金鱼(jīnyú)和(hé)一只鸟(niǎo)。他的马会踢(tī)足球(zúqiú)；他的狗会打篮球(lánqiú)。他的猫(māo)喜欢游泳(yóuyǒng)；他的金鱼(jīnyú)不喜欢猫(māo)。他的鸟(niǎo)会说英语(Yīngyǔ)和(hé)汉语(Hànyǔ)，它(tā)最(zuì)喜欢说“谢谢(xièxie)！”

Supplementary words

More Sports

橄榄球	gǎnlǎnqiú	football, rugby
棒球	bàngqiú	baseball
垒球	lěiqiú	softball
体操	tǐcāo	gymnastics
跳远	tiàoyuǎn	long jump
跳高	tiàogāo	high jump
田径	tiánjìng	track and field
保龄球	bǎolíngqiú	bowling (tenpin)
高尔夫球	gāo'ěrfūqiú	golf
排球	páiqiú	volleyball
羽毛球	yǔmáoqiú	badminton
曲棍球	qūgùnqiú	hockey



Something to know

Taijiquan



Tàijíquán 太极拳 (taichi), characterized by its graceful and slow movements, is a traditional Chinese sport and an exercise for the mind as well as the body.

To practise tàijíquán 太极拳, one needs to be relaxed and concentrate on breathing and the flow of each movement. The exercise develops physical endurance, relaxation and mental calm. It is performed by millions of Chinese daily, mainly early in the morning, in parks or anywhere else where there is enough space.



dì shí kè wǒ de péngyou
第十课 我的朋友

1 Lanlan's friend

méimao 眉毛
yǎnjing 眼睛
bízi 鼻子
zuǐba 嘴巴
tóu 头
ěrduo 耳朵
liǎn 脸
tóufa 头发

这是我的朋友(péngyou)。她叫(jiào)王(Wáng)美怡(Měiyí)。

她今年十四岁，上(shàng)九年级(niánjí)。

她的眼睛(yǎnjing)很大，嘴巴(zuǐba)很小；

她的头发(tóufa)很长(cháng)，眉毛(méimao)很短(duǎn)。



2 Introducing friends

xuéxiào
这是我们的学校。

xuéxiào zhēn
你们的学校真大。

Lánlan
你好，兰兰！

你好！

他是谁？

tóngxué Bái Dàwěi
他是我的同学，白大伟。

Dàwěi péngyou
大伟，这是我的朋友。
jiào Wáng Měiyí
她叫王美怡。

你好。
Bái Dàwěi
我叫白大伟。

你好。

3 What grade are you in?

Wáng Měiyí shàng niánjí
王美怡，你上几年级？



ne
我上九年级，你呢？



我上七年级。
Lánlan
兰兰也上七年级。

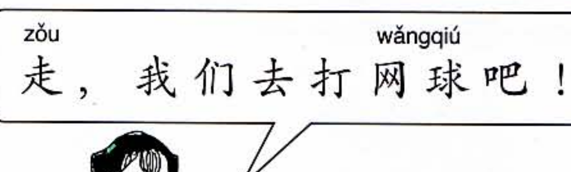
Dàwěi hé tóngbān
大伟和我同班。



Xiǎomíng
小明也和你同班吗？



dōu
是的，我们都同班。





a zǒu
好啊！我们走。





Learn the sentences

Asking what grade someone is in at school

To ask What grade are you in? say Nǐ shàng jǐ niánjí? 你上几年级？ To answer, replace the question word jǐ 几 with the grade.

你上(shàng)几年级(niánjí)？	我上(shàng)六年级(niánjí)。 我上七年级。
他上几年级？	他上五年级。 他上九年级。
她上几年级？	她上八年级。 她上四年级。

Asking about someone's identity

We learnt in lesson four that Tā shì shéi? 他是谁？ is used to ask who a person is, and that the answer is the person's name or title. Now we'll learn to answer the question by stating the person's relationship to you or to someone else.

他是谁？	他是我的朋友(péngyou)。 他是我的弟弟。
她是谁？	她是我姐姐的朋友。 她是我妈妈。

Asking if someone is in the same class

To ask Is he in the same class as you? say Tā hé nǐ tóngbān ma? 他和你同班吗？ To answer yes, say shìde 是的; to answer no, say bù 不.

他和(hé)你同班(tóngbān)吗？	是的，他和我同班(tóngbān)。 不，他不和我同班。
你和我妹妹同班吗？	是的，我和她同班。 不，我不和她同班。
你和大伟(Dàwěi)同班吗？	是的，我们同班。 不，我们不同班。



A rhyme

cháng méi duǎn tóufa　　yǎn　zuǐba
长眉短头发，小眼大嘴巴；
　　xiàohāha　　shuōhuà xiōngbāba
打球笑哈哈，说话凶巴巴。

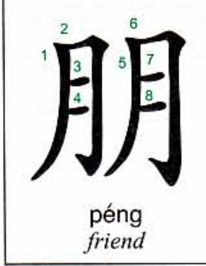


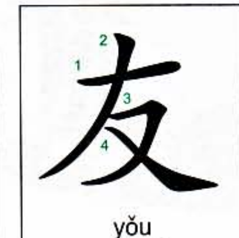
New words and expressions

朋友	péngyou	friend péng- friend; yǒu- friend
眉毛	méimao	eyebrow méi- eyebrow, máo- hair
眼睛	yǎnjing	eye yǎn, jīng- eye
鼻子	bízi	nose
嘴巴	zuǐba	mouth
头	tóu	head
耳朵	ěrduo	ear ěr- ear; duǒ- measure word for flower
脸	liǎn	face
头发	tóufa	hair (on human head) tóu- head; fà- hair
王	Wáng	a family name wáng- king
美怡	Měiyí	a given name měi- beautiful; yí- happy
上	shàng	to go, to attend
年级	niánjí	grade nián- year; jí- level
长	cháng	long
短	duǎn	short
学校	xuéxiào	school xué- to learn, to study; xiào- school
同班	tóngbān	same class tóng- same; bān- class
笑哈哈	xiàohāha	to laugh heartily, laughingly xiào- to smile, to laugh
凶巴巴	xiōngbāba	fiercely, ferociously xiōng- fierece, ferocious

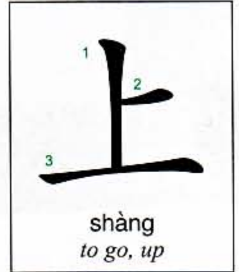


Write the characters





叫
jiào
to be called, to call





级
jí
grade, step







My alien friends





他叫大中，是我的朋友。大中没有头发(tóufa)，也没有眉毛(méimao)。他有一只眼睛(yǎngjing)，两个鼻子(bízi)，三个耳朵(ěrduo)。他的眼睛(yǎngjing)很大，鼻子(bízi)和嘴巴(zuǐba)都(dōu)很小。

大中没有爸爸，也没有妈妈。他今年(jīnnián)五岁，上九年级。大中和小国同班(tóngbān)。小国今年(jīnnián)八岁，上四年级。他有三只眼睛(yǎngjing)、四个鼻子(bízi)、五个耳朵(ěrduo)……。

Something about characters

The modern form of 朋 péng looks like two moons. An early form of 友 yǒu was written as [glyph], which resembles holding hands. Both of these characters explain the foundation of friendship and are written together to mean friend.

An early form of 上 shàng was written as [glyph], which represents an object standing high above the ground.



Something to know

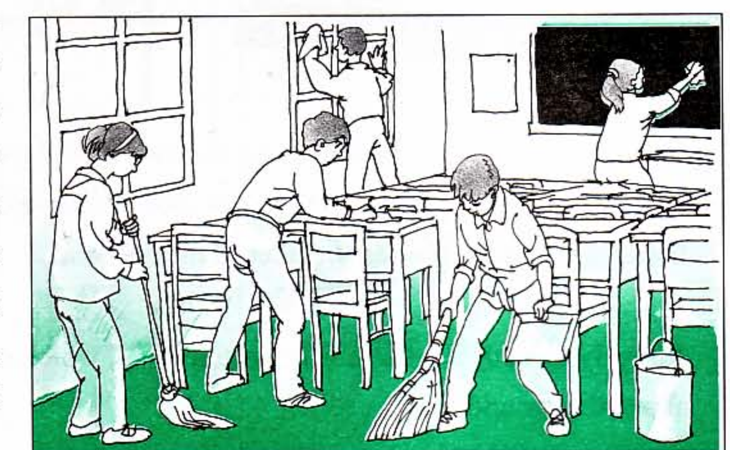
Schools

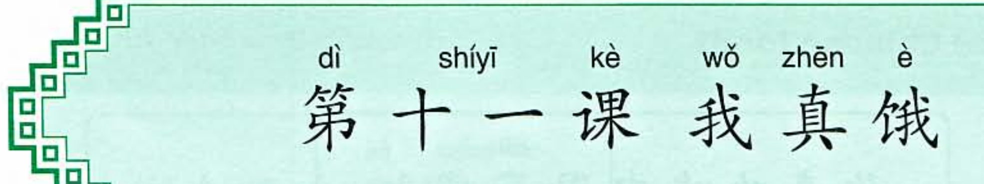
In China, the school year begins in September with the first semester ending in mid-January. The second semester begins in February (after three weeks' vacation for the Spring Festival—Chinese New Year) and ends in mid-July, leaving six weeks for the summer vacation.

The structure of the regular education system follows a 6–3–3–4 pattern: six years of primary school [xiǎoxué 小学], three years of junior high school [chūzhōng 初中], three years of senior high school [gāozhōng 高中] and four years of tertiary education [dàxué 大学]. Entrance examinations to each higher level are very competitive. Keypoint schools, [zhòngdiǎn xuéxiào 重点学校], which are better equipped and have a higher academic standard, are the most popular schools.

In Taiwan, the school year starts in autumn and ends in summer the next year. There are two vacations: winter vacation [hánjià 寒假], around the time of the lunar New Year (end of January to beginning of February) and summer vacation [shǔjià 暑假], from July to late August. The general school system also follows a 6–3–3–4 pattern. Entrance examinations to senior high schools [gāozhōng liánkǎo 高中联考], and to universities [dàxué liánkǎo 大学联考], are also extremely competitive, with the National Taiwan University [Táiwān Dàxué 台湾大学] being the most sought after. Alternatives to the entrance examinations are under consideration in recent years.

Chinese students have many responsibilities at school. They are responsible for cleaning the classroom and maintaining discipline during class. Students take turns going to school early to clean their classrooms and the school grounds before the others arrive. There is no detention system but students are generally well-behaved. Assembly is held every morning and students exercise in the assembly grounds before going to class or during recess. In some schools in China, an eye exercise, accompanied by music, is practised during recess.





dì shíyī kè wǒ zhēn è
第十一课 我真饿

1 I am hungry

zhēn è
我真饿。
chī diǎnr dōngxi
我们去吃点儿东西吧！



xiǎng chī
你想吃什么？

xiǎng chī sānmíngzhì
我想吃三明治，
ne
你呢？



è kě
我不饿；我很渴。
xiǎng hē guǒzhī
我想喝果汁。



hànbǎobāo
汉堡包



bīngqílín
冰淇淋

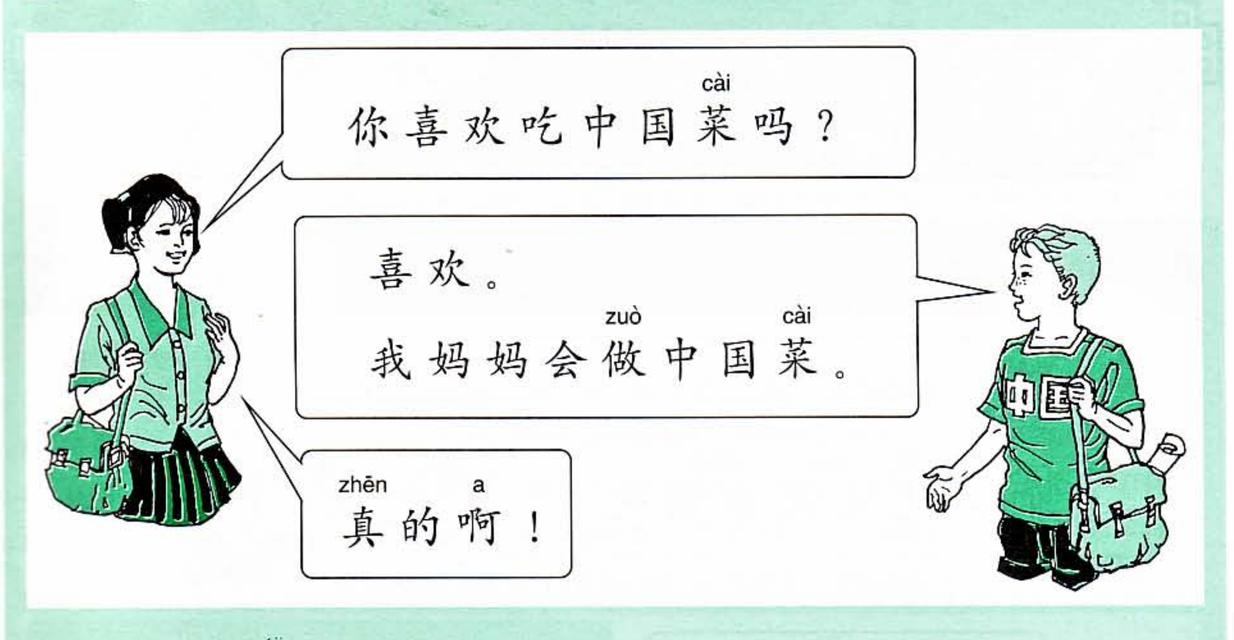


règǒu
热狗



niúnǎi
牛奶

2 Do you like Chinese food?



quánjiā dōu cài
我们全家都喜欢吃中国菜。

gŭlăoròu
我爸爸喜欢吃古老肉。



níngméng-jīpiàn
我妈妈喜欢吃柠檬鸡片。

chūnjuăn
我哥哥喜欢春卷。



chăofàn
我妹妹喜欢炒饭。



zuì zháxiāpiàn
我最喜欢炸虾片。

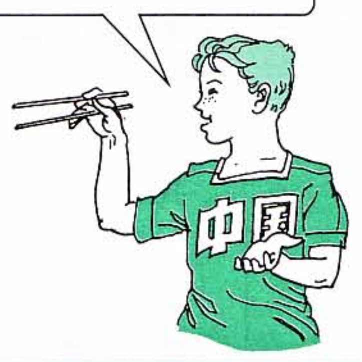




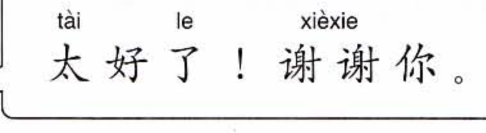
3 Can you use chopsticks?

















Learn the sentences

Expressing hunger or thirst

We learnt about stative verbs in lesson eight. The adjectives è 饿 and kě 渴 can also be used as stative verbs. Remember that when adjectives are used as stative verbs, you may add words such as hěn 很 (very), zhēn 真 (really) or, to make it negative, use bù 不 before the stative verb.

zhēn è 我真饿。	bú 我不饿。
kě 我真渴。	bù 我不渴。
他很饿。	他不饿。

Asking what someone would like to eat or drink

To ask What would you like to eat/drink? say Nǐ xiǎng chī/hē shénme? 你想吃／喝什么？ To answer the question, replace the question word shénme 什么 with the food/drink you would like to have.

xiǎng 你想吃什么？	hànbǎobāo 我想吃汉堡包。
	bīngqílín 我想吃冰淇淋。
他想吃什么？	chǎofàn 他想吃炒饭。
	zháxiāpiàn 他想吃炸虾片。
hē 你想喝什么？	guǒzhī 我想喝果汁。
	niúnǎi 我想喝牛奶。

Talking about someone's abilities

We learnt in lesson eight that to ask Can you speak Chinese? you say Nǐ huì bú huì shuō Hànyǔ? 你会不会说汉语？ Now the same sentence pattern will be used to ask about other things that people are able to do.

你会不会说汉语(Hànyǔ)？ 你会不会拿(ná)筷子(kuàizi)？ 你会不会做(zuò)中国菜？ 你会不会游泳(yóuyǒng)？ 你会不会踢(tī)足球(zúqiú)？	我会。 我不会。
他会不会说英语(Yīngyǔ)？ 他会不会骑车(qíchē)？ 他会不会打板球(bǎnqiú)？	他会。 他不会。



New words and expressions

饿	è	hungry
吃	chī	to eat
点儿	diǎnr	a little, a bit (short form of yìdiǎnr 一点儿)
东西	dōngxi	thing dōng- east; xī- west
想	xiǎng	to feel like, to think
三明治	sānmíngzhì	sandwich
渴	kě	thirsty

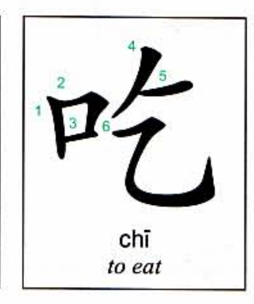
喝	hē	to drink
果汁	guǒzhī	juice guǒ- fruit; zhī- juice
汉堡包	hànbǎobāo	hamburger (used in China), called hànbǎo 汉堡 in Taiwan
冰淇淋	bīngqílín	ice cream
热狗	règǒu	hotdog rè- hot; gǒu - dog
牛奶	niúnǎi	milk niú- cow; nǎi- milk
菜	cài	(meal) dish, vegetable
做	zuò	to make, to cook, to do
真的啊!	zhēn de a!	really!
全家	quánjiā	whole family quán- whole, all; jiā- family
古老肉	gǔlǎoròu	sweet and sour pork, a Cantonese dish, also called gūlūròu 咕噜肉 gǔ- ancient; lǎo- old; ròu- meat; gūlū- rumble
柠檬鸡片	níngméng-jīpiàn	lemon chicken níngméng- lemon; jī- chicken; piàn- thin piece
春卷	chūnjuǎn	spring rolls chūn- spring; juǎn- roll
炒饭	chǎofàn	fried rice chǎo- to stir-fry; fàn- cooked rice
炸虾片	zháxiāpiàn	prawn crackers zhá- to deep-fry; xiā- prawn; piàn- thin piece
拿	ná	to hold, to take
筷子	kuàizi	chopsticks
可是	kěshì	but
看	kàn	to look, to see
到	dào	to go to, to arrive
吃饭	chī fàn	to have a meal chī- to eat; fàn- meal, cooked rice
太好了	tài hǎo le	that's great! tài- too; hǎo- good; le- [stressing the situation]
别客气	bié kèqi	not at all, you're welcome bié- don't; kèqi- polite



Write the characters



















Supplementary words

More food

汽水	qìshuǐ	soft drink, soda pop
水	shuǐ	water
开水	kāishuǐ	boiled water, drinking water
可乐	kělè	cola
面包	miànbāo	bread
炸薯条	zháshǔtiáo	French fries
黄油	huángyóu	butter, also called nǎiyóu 奶油
饼干	bǐnggān	biscuits
蛋糕	dàngāo	cake
面	miàn	noodles
汤	tāng	soup
乳酪	rǔlào	cheese
巧克力	qiǎokèlì	chocolate

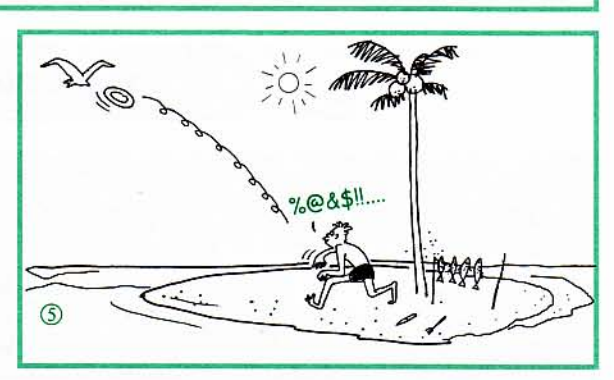






guǒzhī niúnǎi
我真渴！我想喝果汁，也想喝牛奶。
sānmíngzhì règǒu
我很饿！我想吃三明治，也想吃热狗。
a chǎofàn chūnjuǎn gǔlǎoròu
啊！我想吃妈妈的炒饭、春卷和古老肉。







niǎo
我不喜欢打鸟。
pīngpāngqiú wǎngqiú
我喜欢打乒乓球，喜欢打网球，
喜欢打篮球，……









Something to know

Chinese food

The three principles of Chinese food preparation are that the food should look good, smell good and taste good. Food is regarded as good if these three principles are satisfied. As China is vast, there is a great variety of foods and cooking methods. The Beijing style of cooking has lovely snacks, Sichuan cooking is well-known for its hot and spicy flavours, and Guangdong (Cantonese) cooking is famous for its sweet and sour style.



Seasonings and utensils

Despite the great variety in Chinese cooking, the most common seasonings are shallots, ginger, garlic and soy sauce.

Although many tools are used in cooking, the most unique Chinese cooking utensil is the wok [guōzi 锅子]. The wok serves many functions such as stir-frying, shallow-frying, deep-frying, steaming, and boiling.

On the table, apart from plates and soup bowls, chopsticks [kuàizi 筷子] and rice bowls [wǎn 碗] are essential items. Knives are considered unsuitable to be placed on the dinner table.



dì shí'èr kè fùxí
第十二课 复习

1 Letter to a friend

Guómíng
国明：

xìng Bái Bái Dàwěi
你好。我姓白，叫白大伟。我是澳大利亚人，
yìdiǎnr Hànyǔ xuésheng jīnnián
会说一点儿汉语。我是学生，今年十二岁，上
七年级。我家有五个人。我有爸爸、妈妈、一个
yīshēng hùshi
哥哥和一个妹妹。我爸爸是医生，妈妈是护士，
dōu xuésheng tā
哥哥和妹妹都是学生。我家有一只狗。它很小、
kě'ài
很可爱。

quánjiā dōu zuò
我们全家都喜欢吃中国菜。我妈妈会做
zuì chūnjuǎn
中国菜。我最喜欢吃春卷。我有一个中国朋友，
Lǐ Lánlan tóngbān kuàizi ná de
她叫李兰兰。兰兰和我同班，她说我筷子拿得
很好。

xuéxiào bǎnqiú yóuyǒng
我们的学校很大。我喜欢打板球，也喜欢游泳。
你喜欢什么运动？

zhù
祝你
kuàilè
快乐

大伟

2 Being polite

Expressing thanks ➪ **Responding**

xièxie
谢谢。

xièxie
谢谢你。

kèqi
不客气。

bié kèqi
别客气。

Expressing welcome ➪ **Responding**

huānyíng
欢迎，欢迎。

qǐng jìn
请进。

xièxie
谢谢。

Apologising ➪ **Responding**

duìbuqǐ
对不起。

guānxi
没关系。

Praising people ➪ **Responding**

de
你说得很好。

ná
你拿得很好。

zuò
你做得很好。

nǎli
哪里！

哪里！哪里！

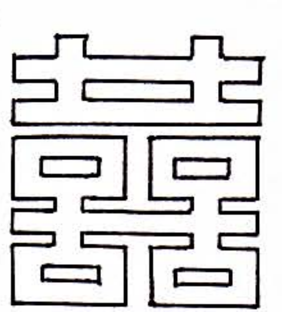
Asking for help

qǐngwèn
请问，……？

3 Reading signs

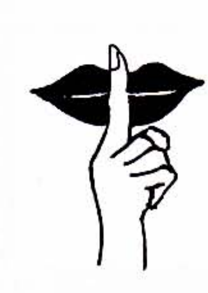


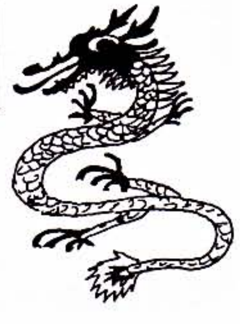












Appendix

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

Chinese-English

	Simplified	Pinyin	English	Traditional	Lesson
A	啊	a	[an exclamation]	啊	4
	爱尔兰	Ài'ěrlán	Ireland	愛爾蘭	8
	澳大利亚	Àodàlìyà	Australia	澳大利亞	8
	澳洲	Àozhōu	Australia (used in Taiwan)	澳洲	8
B	八	bā	eight	八	3
	把手放下	bǎ shǒu fàng xià	put down (your) hand	把手放下	2
	把书打开	bǎ shū dǎ kāi	open (your) book	把書打開	2
	爸爸	bàba	dad, father	爸爸	6
	吧	ba	[indicating suggestion]	吧	9
	白	Bái	a family name; bái- white	白	2
	百	bǎi	hundred	百	3
	板球	bǎnqiú	cricket	板球	9
	棒球	bàngqiú	baseball	棒球	9
	保龄球	bǎolíngqiú	bowling (tenpin)	保齡球	9
	保罗	Bǎoluó	Paul	保羅	6
	鼻子	bízi	nose	鼻子	10
	笔	bǐ	pen	筆	5
	蝙蝠	biānfú	bat	蝙蝠	7
	别客气	bié kèqi	you're welcome, not at all	別客氣	11
	冰淇淋	bīngqílín	ice cream	冰淇淋	11
	饼干	bǐnggān	biscuits	餅乾	11
	伯伯	bóbo	father's elder brother	伯伯	6
	不会	bú huì	unable to, cannot	不會	8
	不客气	bú kèqi	you're welcome, not at all	不客氣	5
	不去	bú qù	not going	不去	9
	不是	bú shì	no (negative form of shì 是)	不是	5
	不要说话	bú yào shuōhuà	do not talk	不要說話	2
	不	bù	no, not (used to negate)	不	5
C	彩笔	cǎibǐ	colour pencil	彩筆	5
	菜	cài	meal, dish, vegetable	菜	11
	苍蝇	cāngying	fly (*n.*)	蒼蠅	7
	长	cháng	long	長	10
	炒饭	chǎofàn	fried rice	炒飯	11
	乘以	chéng yǐ	multiplied by	乘以	3
	吃	chī	to eat	吃	11

Simplified	Pinyin	English	Traditional	Lesson
吃饭	chī fàn	to have a meal	吃飯	11
尺	chǐ	ruler	尺	5
宠物	chǒngwù	pet	寵物	7
除以	chú yǐ	divided by	除以	3
窗户	chuānghu	window	窗戶	5
春卷	chūnjuǎn	spring rolls	春捲	11
D 打	dǎ	to hit, to play (basket ball, tennis...etc.)	打	9
大	dà	big, large	大	7
大概	dàgài	probably	大概	5
大声点儿	dà shēng diǎnr	a little louder	大聲點兒	2
大伟	Dàwěi	David	大偉	2
大熊猫	dàxióngmāo	giant panda	大熊貓	7
袋鼠	dàishǔ	kangaroo	袋鼠	7
蛋糕	dàngāo	cake	蛋糕	11
到	dào	to go to, to arrive	到	11
到前面来	dào qiánmian lái	come to the front	到前面來	2
德国	Déguó	Germany	德國	8
德语	Déyǔ	German language	德語	8
的	de	[possessive particle]	的	5
得	de	[used after a verb to indicate degree or result]	得	8
等于	děng yú	be equal to	等於	3
弟弟	dìdi	younger brother	弟弟	6
第二	dì èr	second	第二	3
第二课	dì èr kè	lesson two	第二課	3
第三	dì sān	third	第三	3
第三课	dì sān kè	lesson three	第三課	3
第一	dì yī	first	第一	3
第一课	dì yī kè	lesson one	第一課	3
点儿	diǎnr	a little, a bit (short form of yìdiǎnr 一点儿)	點兒	11
东西	dōngxi	thing	東西	11
动物	dòngwù	animal	動物	7
都	dōu	all	都	7
短	duǎn	short	短	10
对不起	duìbuqǐ	excuse me, sorry	對不起	8
E 俄罗斯	Éluósī	Russia	俄羅斯	8
饿	è	hungry	餓	11
鳄鱼	èyú	crocodile	鱷魚	7
儿子	érzi	son	兒子	6
耳朵	ěrduo	ear	耳朵	10
二	èr	two	二	3
F 法国	Fǎguó	France	法國	8
非常好	fēicháng hǎo	extremely good	非常好	2
菲律宾	Fēilùbīn	the Philippines	菲律賓	8
粉笔	fěnbǐ	chalk	粉筆	5

Simplified	Pinyin	English	Traditional	Lesson
G 橄榄球	gǎnlǎnqiú	rugby, football	橄欖球	9
高尔夫球	gāo'ěrfūqiú	golf	高爾夫球	9
哥哥	gēge	elder brother	哥哥	6
个	gè	[measure word]	個	6
工人	gōngrén	labourer, worker	工人	6
狗	gǒu	dog	狗	7
姑姑	gūgu	father's sister	姑姑	6
咕噜肉	gūlūròu	sweet and sour pork, a Cantonese dish	咕嚕肉	11
古老肉	gǔlǎoròu	sweet and sour pork, a Cantonese dish	咕咾肉	11
国	guó	country	國	8
果汁	guǒzhī	juice	果汁	11
H 汉堡	hànbǎo	hamburger (used in Taiwan)	漢堡	11
汉堡包	hànbǎobāo	hamburger (used in China)	漢堡包	11
汉语	Hànyǔ	Chinese language	漢語	8
好	hǎo	good, well	好	2
好啊	hǎo a	good! (agreeing)	好啊	9
好吗	hǎo ma	OK? (asking for agreement)	好嗎	9
喝	hē	to drink	喝	11
和	hé	and	和	5
黑板	hēibǎn	blackboard	黑板	5
黑板擦	hēibǎncā	blackboard duster	黑板擦	5
很	hěn	very	很	7
很好	hěn haǒ	very good	很好	2
猴子	hóuzi	monkey	猴子	7
蝴蝶	húdié	butterfly	蝴蝶	7
护士	hùshi	nurse	護士	6
欢迎	huānyíng	welcome	歡迎	4
黄油	huángyóu	butter, also called nǎiyóu 奶油	黃油	11
会	huì	can, to be able to	會	8
J 鸡	jī	chicken, rooster	雞	7
几	jǐ	how many	幾	4
继父	jìfù	stepfather	繼父	6
继母	jìmǔ	stepmother	繼母	6
家	jiā	family, home	家	6
加	jiā	plus, to add	加	3
加拿大	Jiānádà	Canada	加拿大	8
减	jiǎn	minus, to subtract	減	3
剪刀	jiǎndāo	scissors	剪刀	5
见	jiàn	to see	見	2
胶水	jiāoshuǐ	glue	膠水	5
叫	jiào	to be called, to call	叫	6
教室	jiàoshì	classroom	教室	5
姐姐	jiějie	elder sister	姊姊，姐姐	6
今年	jīnnián	this year	今年	4

	Simplified	Pinyin	English	Traditional	Lesson
	金鱼	jīnyú	goldfish	金魚	7
	九	jiǔ	nine	九	3
	舅舅	jiùjiu	mother's brother	舅舅	6
K	开水	kāishuǐ	drinking water, boiled water	開水	11
	看	kàn	to look, to see	看	11
	看黑板	kàn hēibǎn	look at the blackboard	看黑板	2
	渴	kě	thirsty	渴	11
	可爱	kě'ài	lovely	可愛	7
	可乐	kělè	cola	可樂	11
	可是	kěshì	but	可是	11
	口	kǒu	mouth	口	1
	快乐	kuàilè	happy	快樂	4
	筷子	kuàizi	chopsticks	筷子	11
L	兰兰	Lánlan	a given name	蘭蘭	2
	篮球	lánqiú	basketball	籃球	9
	老虎	lǎohǔ	tiger	老虎	7
	老师	lǎoshī	teacher	老師	2
	老鼠	lǎoshǔ	mouse, rat	老鼠	7
	垒球	lěiqiú	softball	壘球	9
	李	Lǐ	a family name; lǐ- plum	李	2
	丽丽	Lìli	Lily	麗麗	6
	脸	liǎn	face	臉	10
	两	liǎng	two	兩	4
	林	Lín	a family name; lín-forest	林	2
	〇	líng	zero	〇	3
	六	liù	six	六	3
	龙	lóng	dragon	龍	7
M	妈妈	māma	mum, mother	媽媽	6
	马	mǎ	horse	馬	7
	马克	Mǎkè	Mark	馬克	4
	马来西亚	Mǎláixīyà	Malaysia	馬來西亞	8
	蚂蚁	mǎyǐ	ant	螞蟻	7
	吗	ma	[question word]	嗎	5
	忙	máng	busy	忙	9
	猫	māo	cat	貓	7
	毛笔	máobǐ	writing brush	毛筆	5
	没	méi	[negative word]	沒	6
	没关系	méi guānxi	it doesn't matter, that's all right	沒關係	8
	没有	méi yǒu	not have	沒有	6
	眉毛	méimao	eyebrow	眉毛	10
	美国	Měiguó	America, USA	美國	8
	美怡	Měiyí	a given name	美怡	10
	妹妹	mèimei	younger sister	妹妹	6
	门	mén	door	門	5

	Simplified	Pinyin	English	Traditional	Lesson
	们	men	[plural word]	們	2
	蜜蜂	mìfēng	bee	蜜蜂	7
	面	miàn	noodles	麵	11
	面包	miànbāo	bread	麵包	11
	明天	míngtiān	tomorrow	明天	2
	名字	míngzi	name	名字	6
	墨西哥	Mòxīgē	Mexico	墨西哥	8
N	拿	ná	to take, to hold	拿	11
	哪	nǎ	which	哪	8
	哪里	nǎli	not at all (said when praised; literally where)	哪裡	8
	那	nà	that	那	5
	奶奶	nǎinai	grandma, grandmother	奶奶	6
	奶油	nǎiyóu	butter, also called huángyóu 黄油	奶油	11
	南非	Nánfēi	South Africa	南非	8
	呢	ne	[question word]	呢	6
	你	nǐ	you (singular)	你	2
	你的	nǐ de	your, yours	你的	5
	你好	nǐ hǎo	hello, how do you do	你好	2
	你们	nǐmen	you (plural)	你們	2
	年级	niánjí	grade	年級	10
	鸟	niǎo	bird	鳥	7
	柠檬鸡片	níngméng-jīpiàn	lemon chicken	檸檬雞片	11
	牛	niú	cow, ox	牛	7
	牛奶	niúnǎi	milk	牛奶	11
	纽西兰	Niǔxīlán	New Zealand (used in Taiwan)	紐西蘭	8
	女儿	nǚ'ér	daughter	女兒	6
P	排球	páiqiú	volleyball	排球	9
	跑步	pǎobù	running, to jog	跑步	9
	跑来跑去	pǎolái-pǎoqù	to run around	跑來跑去	7
	朋友	péngyou	friend	朋友	10
	匹	pǐ	[measure word for horses]	匹	7
	乒乓球	pīngpāngqiú	table tennis	乒乓球	9
Q	七	qī	seven	七	3
	妻子	qīzi	wife	妻子	6
	骑车	qíchē	cycling, to ride a bicycle	騎車	9
	汽水	qìshuǐ	soft drink, soda pop	汽水	11
	铅笔	qiānbǐ	pencil	鉛筆	5
	铅笔盒	qiānbǐhé	pencil case	鉛筆盒	5
	巧克力	qiǎokèlì	chocolate	巧克力	11
	请安静	qǐng ānjìng	quiet please	請安靜	2
	请回座位	qǐng huí zuòwèi	return to (your) seat please	請回座位	2
	请进	qǐng jìn	come in please	請進	2
	请举手	qǐng jǔshǒu	please raise (your) hand	請舉手	2
	请坐	qǐng zuò	sit down please	請坐	2

	Simplified	Pinyin	English	Traditional	Lesson
	请坐好	qǐng zuò hǎo	sit properly please	請坐好	2
	请问	qǐngwèn	may I ask	請問	8
	曲棍球	qūgùnqiú	hockey	曲棍球	9
	去	qù	to go	去	9
	全家	quánjiā	whole family	全家	11
R	热狗	règǒu	hotdog	熱狗	11
	人	rén	person, people	人	1
	日本	Rìběn	Japan	日本	8
	日语	Rìyǔ	Japanese language	日語	8
	乳酪	rǔlào	cheese	乳酪	11
	瑞士	Ruìshì	Switzerland	瑞士	8
S	三	sān	three	三	3
	三明治	sānmíngzhì	sandwich	三明治	11
	山	shān	mountain	山	1
	上	shàng	to go, to attend; up	上	10
	蛇	shé	snake, serpent	蛇	7
	谁	shéi	who, whom	誰	4
	谁的	shéi de	whose	誰的	5
	什么	shénme	what	什麼	5
	生日	shēngrì	birthday	生日	4
	十	shí	ten	十	3
	是	shì	am, is, are	是	2
	是啊	shì a	yes, yeah (shows agreement)	是啊	7
	是的	shìde	yes (alternative of shì 是 in answering question)	是的	5
	书	shū	book	書	5
	书包	shūbāo	school bag	書包	5
	叔叔	shūshu	father's younger brother	叔叔	6
	树熊	shùxióng	koala (used in China)	樹熊	3
	水	shuǐ	water	水	11
	说	shuō	to speak, to say	說	8
	说话	shuōhuà	to talk, to speak, to say	說話	10
	四	sì	four	四	3
	岁	suì	year of age	歲	4
T	他	tā	he, him	他	2
	她	tā	she, her	她	4
	它	tā	it	牠, 它	7
	它们	tāmen	they (plural of it)	牠們, 它們	7
	台湾	Táiwān	Taiwan	臺灣	8
	太好了	tài hǎo le	that's great!	太好了	11
	太太	tàitai	Mrs, wife	太太	6
	泰国	Tàiguó	Thailand	泰國	8
	汤	tāng	soup	湯	11
	踢	tī	to kick, to play (soccer)	踢	9
	体操	tǐcāo	gymnastics	體操	9

	Simplified	Pinyin	English	Traditional	Lesson
	田径	tiánjìng	track and field	田徑	9
	条	tiáo	[measure word for long, thin objects]	條	7
	跳高	tiàogāo	high jump	跳高	9
	跳远	tiàoyuǎn	long jump	跳遠	9
	同班	tóngbān	same class	同班	10
	同学	tóngxué	fellow student, schoolmate	同學	2
	同学们	tóngxuémen	fellow students (plural)	同學們	2
	头	tóu	head	頭	10
	头发	tóufa	hair (on human head)	頭髮	10
	兔子	tùzi	rabbit, hare	兔子	7
W	王	Wáng	a family name; wáng- king	王	10
	网球	wǎngqiú	tennis	網球	9
	喂	wèi	hey!	喂	9
	蚊子	wénzi	mosquito	蚊子	7
	我	wǒ	I, me	我	2
	我的	wǒ de	my, mine	我的	5
	我们走吧	wǒmen zǒu ba	let's go	我們走吧	9
	无尾熊	wúwěixióng	koala (used in Taiwan)	無尾熊	7
	五	wǔ	five	五	3
X	西班牙	Xībānyá	Spain	西班牙	8
	希腊	Xīlà	Greece	希臘	8
	喜欢	xǐhuān	to like	喜歡	9
	先生	xiānsheng	Mr, husband	先生	6
	香港	Xiānggǎng	Hong Kong	香港	8
	想	xiǎng	to feel like, to think	想	11
	橡皮	xiàngpí	eraser	橡皮	5
	小	xiǎo	small, little (in size)	小	7
	小妹妹	xiǎomèimei	little girl	小妹妹	8
	小明	Xiǎomíng	a given name	小明	5
	笑哈哈	xiàohāha	to laugh heartily, laughingly	笑哈哈	10
	谢谢	xièxie	thanks	謝謝	4
	新加坡	Xīnjiāpō	Singapore	新加坡	8
	新几内亚	Xīnjǐnèiyà	New Guinea	新幾內亞	8
	新西兰	Xīnxīlán	New Zealand (used in China)	新西蘭	8
	姓	xìng	family name, surname	姓	6
	凶	xiōng	fierce, ferocious	凶	7
	凶巴巴	xiōngbāba	fiercely, ferociously	凶巴巴	10
	熊猫	xióngmāo	panda	熊貓	7
	学生	xuésheng	student, pupil	學生	6
	学校	xuéxiào	school	學校	10
Y	鸭子	yāzi	duck	鴨子	7
	眼睛	yǎnjing	eye	眼睛	10
	羊	yáng	goat, ram	羊	7
	爷爷	yéye	grandad, grandfather	爺爺	6

Simplified	Pinyin	English	Traditional	Lesson
也	yě	also, too	也	6
一	yī	one	一	3
一点儿	yìdiǎnr	a little, a bit	一點兒	8
医生	yīshēng	doctor	醫生	6
姨	yí	mother's sister	姨	6
咦	yí	why!, huh! (indicating surprise)	咦	8
椅子	yǐzi	chair	椅子	5
意大利	Yìdàlì	Italy	義大利	8
印度	Yìndù	India	印度	8
英国	Yīngguó	England	英國	8
英语	Yīngyǔ	English language	英語	8
游泳	yóuyǒng	swimming, to swim	游泳	9
有	yǒu	to have, there is/are	有	6
鱼	yú	fish	魚	7
圆珠笔	yuánzhūbǐ	biro, ballpoint pen (used in China)	圓珠筆	5
原子笔	yuánzǐbǐ	biro, ballpoint pen (used in Taiwan)	原子筆	5
越南	Yuènán	Vietnam	越南	8
运动	yùndòng	sports, exercise	運動	9
Z 再见	zàijiàn	goodbye	再見	2
再说一次	zài shuō yí cì	say (it) again	再說一次	2
早	zǎo	morning, early	早	2
炸薯条	zháshǔtiáo	French fries	炸薯條	11
炸虾片	zháxiāpiàn	prawn crackers	炸蝦片	11
站起来	zhàn qǐlai	stand up	站起來	2
蟑螂	zhāngláng	cockroach	蟑螂	7
丈夫	zhàngfu	husband	丈夫	6
这	zhè	this	這	5
真	zhēn	really	真	7
真的啊	zhēnde a	really!	真的啊	11
只	zhī	[measure word for dogs, cats, birds]	隻	7
知道	zhīdao	to know	知道	5
纸	zhǐ	paper	紙	5
中国	Zhōngguó	China	中國	8
猪	zhū	pig, boar	豬	7
祝	zhù	to wish (offer good wishes)	祝	4
注意听	zhùyì tīng	listen carefully	注意聽	2
桌子	zhuōzi	desk	桌子	5
走	zǒu	to go, to walk	走	9
走吧	zǒu ba	let's go!	走吧	9
足球	zúqiú	soccer	足球	9
嘴巴	zuǐba	mouth	嘴巴	10
最	zuì	most	最	9
做	zuò	to make, to cook, to do	做	11

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS
English-Chinese

English	Pinyin	Simplified
Grammar:		
degree or result	de	得
exclamation	a	啊
negative word	bù	不
	méi	没
possessive particle	de	的
question word	ma	吗
	ne	呢
suggestion	ba	吧
Plural form:		
	men	们
Measure words:		
dogs, cats, birds	zhī	只
fish	tiáo	条
horses	pǐ	匹
people	gè	个
Family names:		
	Bái	白
	Lǐ	李
	Lín	林
	Mǎ	马
	Shānkǒu	山口 (Japanese)
	Wáng	王
Given names:		
	Dàlì	大利
	Dàmíng	大明
	Dàzhōng	大中
	Guómíng	国明
	Jiǔshān	九山
	Lánlan	兰兰
	Měiyí	美怡
	Sānshān	三山
	Xiǎoguó	小国
	Xiǎomáo	小毛
	Xiǎoměi	小美
	Xiǎomíng	小明
David	Dàwěi	大伟
Lily	Lìli	丽丽
Mark	Mǎkè	马克
A		
a little, a bit	diǎnr, yìdiǎnr	点儿, 一点儿
a little louder	dà shēng diǎnr	大声点儿
able to, can	huì	会
age: year of-	suì	岁
all	dōu	都
also, too	yě	也
am, is, are	shì	是
am not	bú shì	不是
America, USA	Měiguó	美国
and	hé	和
animal	dòngwù	动物
ant	mǎyǐ	蚂蚁
are, is, am	shì	是
are not	bú shì	不是
arrive, to go to	dào	到
attend (school, work)	shàng	上
aunt (father's sister)	gūgu	姑姑
(mother's sister)	yí	姨
Australia	Àodàlìyà	澳大利亚
(in Taiwan)	Àozhōu	澳洲
B		
badminton	yǔmáoqiú	羽毛球
ballpoint pen	yuánzhūbǐ	圆珠笔
baseball	bàngqiú	棒球
basketball	lánqiú	篮球
bat	biānfú	蝙蝠
bee	mìfēng	蜜蜂
big, large	dà	大
bird	niǎo	鸟
biro	yuánzhūbǐ	圆珠笔
birthday	shēngrì	生日
biscuits	bǐnggān	饼干
blackboard	hēibǎn	黑板
blackboard duster	hēibǎncā	黑板擦
boar, pig	zhū	猪
boiled water	kāishuǐ	开水
book	shū	书
bowling: tenpin-	bǎolíngqiú	保龄球
bread	miànbāo	面包
brother: elder-	gēge	哥哥
brother: younger-	dìdi	弟弟
brush : writing-	máobǐ	毛笔
busy	máng	忙
but	kěshì	可是
butter	huángyóu, nǎiyóu	黄油, 奶油
butterfly	húdié	蝴蝶
C		
cake	dàngāo	蛋糕

English	Pinyin	Simplified
call (*v.*), to be called	jiào	叫
can, to be able to	huì	会
Canada	Jiānádà	加拿大
Canadian	Jiānádàrén	加拿大人
cannot, unable to	bú huì	不会
cat	māo	猫
chair	yǐzi	椅子
chalk	fěnbǐ	粉笔
cheese	rǔlào	乳酪
chicken, rooster	jī	鸡
China	Zhōngguó	中国
Chinese language	Hànyǔ	汉语
(in China)	Pǔtōnghuà	普通话
(in Taiwan)	Guóyǔ	国语
Chinese (person)	Zhōngguórén	中国人
chocolate	qiǎokèlì	巧克力
chopsticks	kuàizi	筷子
Christian name	míngzi	名字
classroom	jiàoshì	教室
cockroach	zhānglǎng	蟑螂
cola	kělè	可乐
colour pencil	cǎibǐ	彩笔
come in please	qǐng jìn	请进
come to the front	dào qiánmian lái	到前面来
cook (*v.*), to make	zuò	做
cookies	bǐnggān	饼干
country	guó	国
cow, ox	niú	牛
cricket	bǎnqiú	板球
crocodile	èyú	鳄鱼
cycling, ride a bicycle	qíchē	骑车

D

English	Pinyin	Simplified
dad, father	bàba	爸爸
daughter	nǚ'ér	女儿
David	Dàwěi	大伟
desk	zhuōzi	桌子
dish, meal, vegetable	cài	菜
divided by	chú yǐ	除以
do, to make, to cook	zuò	做
do not talk	bú yào shuōhuà	不要说话
doctor	yīshēng	医生
dog	gǒu	狗
don't mention it, you are welcome	bú kèqi, bié kèqi	不客气，别客气
door	mén	门
dragon	lóng	龙
drink (*v.*)	hē	喝
drinking water	kāishuǐ	开水
duck	yāzi	鸭子

E

English	Pinyin	Simplified
ear	ěrduo	耳朵
early, morning	zǎo	早
eat	chī	吃
eight	bā	八
elder brother	gēge	哥哥
elder sister	jiějie	姐姐
England	Yīngguó	英国
English language	Yīngyǔ	英语
Englishman	Yīngguórén	英国人
equal to	děngyú	等于
eraser	xiàngpí	橡皮
excuse me, sorry	duìbuqǐ	对不起
exercise, sports	yùndòng	运动
extremely good	fēicháng hǎo	非常好
eye	yǎnjing	眼睛
eyebrow	méimao	眉毛

F

English	Pinyin	Simplified
face	liǎn	脸
family, home	jiā	家
family name	xìng	姓
father, dad	bàba	爸爸
father's elder brother	bóbo	伯伯
father's sister	gūgu	姑姑
father's younger brother	shūshu	叔叔
feel like, to think	xiǎng	想
fellow student	tóngxué	同学
fellow students	tóngxuémen	同学们
ferocious, fierce	xiōng,	凶,
ferociously, fiercely	xiōngbāba	凶巴巴
first	dì yī	第一
first name	míngzi	名字
fish	yú	鱼
five	wǔ	五
fly (*n.*)	cāngying	苍蝇
football (soccer)	zúqiú	足球
football (rugby)	gǎnlǎnqiú	橄榄球
four	sì	四
France	Fǎguó	法国
French fries	zháshǔtiáo	炸薯条
fried rice	chǎofàn	炒饭
friend	péngyou	朋友

G

English	Pinyin	Simplified
German language	Déyǔ	德语
German (person)	Déguórén	德国人
Germany	Déguó	德国
glue	jiāoshuǐ	胶水

English	Pinyin	Simplified
go	qù	去
go, to attend; up	shàng	上
go, to walk	zǒu	走
go to, to arrive	dào	到
goat, ram	yáng	羊
goldfish	jīnyú	金鱼
golf	gāo'ěrfūqiú	高尔夫球
good! (agreeing)	hǎo a	好啊
good, well	hǎo	好
goodbye	zàijiàn	再见
grade (school)	niánjí	年级
grandad	yéye	爷爷
grandma	nǎinai	奶奶
Greece	Xīlà	希腊
gymnastics	tǐcāo	体操
H		
hair (on human head)	tóufa	头发
hamburger (in China)	hànbǎobāo	汉堡包
(in Taiwan)	hànbǎo	汉堡
happy	kuàilè	快乐
have/has	yǒu	有
have a meal	chīfàn	吃饭
he, him	tā	他
head	tóu	头
hello, how do you do	nǐ hǎo	你好
her	tāde	她的
her, she	tā	她
hers	tā de	她的
hey!	wèi	喂
high jump	tiàogāo	跳高
him, he	tā	他
his	tā de	他的
hit	dǎ	打
hockey	qūgùnqiú	曲棍球
hold, to take	ná	拿
home, family	jiā	家
Hong Kong	Xiānggǎng	香港
horse	mǎ	马
hotdog	règǒu	热狗
how do you do, hello	nǐ hǎo	你好
how many	jǐ	几
huh! (surprise)	yí	咦
hundred	bǎi	百
hungry	è	饿
husband	zhàngfu	丈夫
husband, Mr	xiānsheng	先生
I		
I, me	wǒ	我

English	Pinyin	Simplified
ice cream	bīngqílín	冰淇淋
India	Yìndù	印度
Ireland	Ài'ěrlán	爱尔兰
is, are, am	shì	是
is not	búshì	不是
it	tā	它
it doesn't matter	méi guānxi	没关系
Italy	Yìdàlì	意大利
its	tāde	它的
J		
Japan	Rìběn	日本
Japanese language	Rìyǔ	日语
Japanese (person)	Rìběnrén	日本人
jogging, running	pǎobù	跑步
juice	guǒzhī	果汁
K		
kangaroo	dàishǔ	袋鼠
kick	tī	踢
know	zhīdao	知道
koala (in China)	kǎolā, shùxióng	考拉,树熊
(in Taiwan)	wúwěixióng	无尾熊
L		
labourer	gōngrén	工人
large, big	dà	大
laughingly	xiàohāha	笑哈哈
lemon chicken	níngméng-jīpiàn	柠檬鸡片
lesson one	dì yī kè	第一课
lesson three	dì sān kè	第三课
lesson two	dì èr kè	第二课
let's go	wǒmen zǒu ba	我们走吧
like (*v.*)	xǐhuān	喜欢
listen carefully	zhùyì tīng	注意听
little (in size), small	xiǎo	小
little: a-, a bit	yìdiǎnr	一点儿
little girl	xiǎomèimei	小妹妹
long	cháng	长
long jump	tiàoyuǎn	跳远
look, to see	kàn	看
look at the blackboard	kàn hēibǎn	看黑板
louder	dà shēng diǎnr	大声点儿
lovely	kě'ài	可爱
M		
make, to cook, to do	zuò	做
Malaysia	Mǎláixīyà	马来西亚
Mark	Mǎkè	马克
may I ask	qǐngwèn	请问
me, I	wǒ	我
meal, dish, vegetable	cài	菜

English	Pinyin	Simplified
meal: to have a-	chī fàn	吃饭
Mexico	Mòxīgē	墨西哥
milk (cow's)	niúnǎi	牛奶
mine, my	wǒ de	我的
minus	jiǎn	减
monkey	hóuzi	猴子
morning, early	zǎo	早
mosquito	wénzi	蚊子
most	zuì	最
mother, mum	māma	妈妈
mother's sister	yí	姨
(in Taiwan)	āyí	阿姨
mother's brother	jiùjiu	舅舅
mountain	shān	山
mouse, rat	lǎoshǔ	老鼠
mouth	kǒu,	口,
	zuǐba	嘴巴
Mr, husband	xiānsheng	先生
Mrs, wife	tàitai	太太
multiplied by	chéng yǐ	乘以
my, mine	wǒ de	我的
N		
name	míngzi	名字
New Guinea	Xīnjǐnèiyà	新几内亚
New Zealand (in China)	Xīnxīlán	新西兰
(in Taiwan)	Niǔxīlán	纽西兰
New Zealander	Xīnxīlánrén	新西兰人
nine	jiǔ	九
no	bú shì	不是
noodles	miàn	面
nose	bízi	鼻子
not (to form negative)	bù	不
not at all (when praised)	nǎli	哪里
(when thanked)	bú kèqi	不客气
not going	bú qù	不去
not have	méi yǒu	没有
nurse	hùshi	护士
O		
OK?	hǎo ma	好吗
one	yī	一
open (your) book	bǎ shū dǎkāi	把书打开
P		
panda	xióngmāo	熊猫
paper	zhǐ	纸
Paul	Bǎoluó	保罗
pen	bǐ	笔
pencil	qiānbǐ	铅笔
pencil case	qiānbǐhé	铅笔盒

English	Pinyin	Simplified
people, person	rén	人
pet	chǒngwù	宠物
Philippines	Fēilùbīn	菲律宾
pig, boar	zhū	猪
play (basketball, tennis)	dǎ	打
(soccer)	tī	踢
plus	jiā	加
prawn crackers	zháxiāpiàn	炸虾片
probably	dàgài	大概
pupil, student	xuésheng	学生
put down (your) hand	bǎ shǒu fàng xià	把手放下
Q		
quiet please	qǐng ānjìng	请安静
R		
rabbit, hare	tùzi	兔子
raise (your) hand plse.	qǐng jǔshǒu	请举手
rat, mouse	lǎoshǔ	老鼠
really	zhēn	真
really!	zhēnde a!	真的啊！
return to (your) seat plse.	qǐng huí zuòwèi	请回座位
ride a bicycle	qíchē	骑车
rugby, football	gǎnlǎnqiú	橄榄球
ruler (measure)	chǐ	尺
run around	pǎolái-pǎoqù	跑来跑去
running, to jog	pǎobù	跑步
Russia	Éluósī	俄罗斯
S		
same class	tóngbān	同班
sandwich	sānmíngzhì	三明治
say, talk	shuōhuà	说话
say (it) again	zài shuō yí cì	再说一次
school	xuéxiào	学校
school bag	shūbāo	书包
schoolmate	tóngxué	同学
schoolmates	tóngxuémen	同学们
scissors	jiǎndāo	剪刀
second	dì èr	第二
see, catch sight of	jiàn	见
see, look	kàn	看
seven	qī	七
she, her	tā	她
short	duǎn	短
Singapore	Xīnjiāpō	新加坡
sister (elder)	jiějie	姐姐
(younger)	mèimei	妹妹
sit down please	qǐng zuò	请坐
sit properly please	qǐng zuò hǎo	请坐好
six	liù	六

English	Pinyin	Simplified
small	xiǎo	小
snake, serpent	shé	蛇
soccer	zúqiú	足球
soft drink, soda pop	qìshuǐ	汽水
softball	lěiqiú	垒球
son	érzi	儿子
sorry, excuse me	duìbuqǐ	对不起
soup	tāng	汤
South Africa	Nánfēi	南非
Spain	Xībānyá	西班牙
speak	shuō, shuōhuà	说，说话
sports, exercise	yùndòng	运动
spring rolls	chūnjuǎn	春卷
stand up	zhàn qǐlai	站起来
stepfather	jìfù	继父
stepmother	jìmǔ	继母
student	xuésheng	学生
surname	xìng	姓
sweet and sour pork	gǔlǎoròu, gūlūròu	古老肉，咕噜肉
swimming, to swim	yóuyǒng	游泳
Switzerland	Ruìshì	瑞士
T		
table tennis	pīngpāngqiú	乒乓球
Taiwan	Táiwān	台湾
take, to hold	ná	拿
talk	shuōhuà	说话
teacher	lǎoshī	老师
ten	shí	十
tennis	wǎngqiú	网球
Thailand	Tàiguó	泰国
thank you	xièxie nǐ	谢谢你
thanks	xièxie	谢谢
that	nà	那
that's all right, it doesn't matter	méi guānxi	没关系
that's great!	tài hǎo le	太好了
there is/are	yǒu	有
they (people)	tāmen	他们
(animal, object)	tāmen	它们
thing	dōngxi	东西
think, feel like	xiǎng	想
third	dì sān	第三
thirsty	kě	渴
this	zhè	这
this year	jīnnián	今年
three	sān	三
tiger	lǎohǔ	老虎
tomorrow	míngtiān	明天
too, also	yě	也
track and field	tiánjìng	田径
two	èr, liǎng	二，两
U		
unable to, cannot	bú huì	不会
uncle (mother's brother)	jiùjiu	舅舅
(father's elder brother)	bóbo	伯伯
(father's younger brother)	shūshu	叔叔
USA, America	Měiguó	美国
V		
vegetable, dish, meal	cài	菜
very	hěn	很
very good	hěn haǒ	很好
Vietnam	Yuènán	越南
volleyball	páiqiú	排球
W		
water	shuǐ	水
welcome	huānyíng	欢迎
well, good	hǎo	好
what	shénme	什么
which	nǎ	哪
white	bái	白
who, whom	shéi	谁
whole family	quánjiā	全家
whose	shéi de	谁的
why!, huh! (indicating surprise)	yí	咦
wife	qīzi	妻子
wife, Mrs	tàitai	太太
window	chuānghu	窗户
wish (offer good wishes)	zhù	祝
worker, labourer	gōngrén	工人
writing brush	máobǐ	毛笔
Y		
year of age	suì	岁
yes	shìde	是的
yes!	shì a	是啊
you (singular)	nǐ	你
(plural)	nǐmen	你们
(polite)	nín	您
you're welcome	bié kèqi, bú kèqi	别客气，不客气
younger brother	dìdi	弟弟
younger sister	mèimei	妹妹
your, yours	nǐ de	你的
Z		
zero	líng	○

LEARN TO WRITE
by lesson

Lesson	Chinese		English
1	人	rén	people, person
	山	shān	mountain
	口	kǒu	mouth
2	你	nǐ	you
	好	hǎo	good
	我	wǒ	I, me
	是	shì	is, am, are
	他	tā	he, him
	们	men	(plural word)
3	一	yī	one
	二	èr	two
	三	sān	three
	四	sì	four
	五	wǔ	five
	六	liù	six
	七	qī	seven
	八	bā	eight
	九	jiǔ	nine
	十	shí	ten
4	谁	shéi	who
	她	tā	she, her
	老	lǎo	old
	师	shī	teacher
	几	jǐ	how many
	岁	suì	year of age
	两	liǎng	two
5	这	zhè	this
	那	nà	that
	什	shén	what
	么	me	(word ending)
	吗	ma	(question word)
	的	de	(possesive particle)
	不	bù	no, not
6	家	jiā	home
	有	yǒu	to have, there is/are
	个	gè	(measure word)
	爸	bà	father
	妈	mā	mother
	哥	gē	elder brother
	姐	jiě	elder sister
	弟	dì	younger brother
	妹	mèi	younger sister
7	宠	chǒng	to spoil
	物	wù	object, thing
	只	zhī	(measure word)
	狗	gǒu	dog
	马	mǎ	horse
	很	hěn	very
	大	dà	big
	小	xiǎo	little
	没	méi	(negative word)
8	中	zhōng	centre, middle
	国	guó	nation
	澳	ào	bay
	利	lì	sharp
	亚	yà	second
	也	yě	also
	会	huì	to be able to, can
	说	shuō	to speak, to say
9	喜	xǐ	to like; happy
	欢	huān	happy
	运	yùn	to transport; luck
	动	dòng	to move
	打	dǎ	to hit, to play (tennis...etc.)
	球	qiú	ball
	去	qù	to go
	吧	ba	(suggestion word)
10	朋	péng	friend
	友	yǒu	friend
	叫	jiào	to be called, call
	上	shàng	to go to
	年	nián	year
	级	jí	grade, level
	和	hé	and
	同	tóng	same; together
	学	xué	to study, to learn
11	真	zhēn	really
	饿	è	hungry
	吃	chī	to eat
	想	xiǎng	to think
	渴	kě	thirsty
	喝	hē	to drink
	菜	cài	dish, vegetable
	饭	fàn	cooked rice, meal